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NUMBER THREE.

THE

HISTORY

OF

CHARLESTOWN,

MASSACHUSETTS.

No. 3

By RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, Jr.

"The History of a Town is united with that of the Country to which it belongs, and with that of the Ages through which it has stood."



CHARLESTOWN:  
CHARLES P. EMMONS.

BOSTON:  
CHARLES C. LITTLE AND JAMES BROWN.  
1846.

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## CHAPTER XIII. 1271412

1640. — Charlestown Village. — Location. — Municipal Government. — Woburn Incorporated. — Extract from its Records. — Woburn Church Organized. — Thomas Carter. — His Ordination. — Boundaries. — A Letter. — Final Agreement. — Land of Nod.

THE territory called Woburn was regarded in 1640, as "remote land," whose roads were Indian pathways, with crevices of rocks and clefts of trees for shelters. To explore it, or occupy it was viewed as a "great labor," not to be undertaken without prayer, not to be accomplished without danger. The history of its settlement, minutely detailed by the early authorities, affords a good illustration of some of the peculiarities of the times, and of the way in which towns were organized.

In May, 1640, Charlestown petitioned the General Court for a grant of land "to accommodate such useful men as might settle" here, and form "a village for the improvement of such remote lands as are already laid out;" hence the grants of May 13 and October 7, 1640, made on the condition of their being built upon within two years.<sup>1</sup> A committee, September 28 and November 4, were appointed to locate "The Village," who were instructed "to advise with Mr. Nowell and the elders in any difficulties they meet with." This Committee, November 17, agreed as follows:

"That (beside the land already granted by the Court to particular men) there shall be laid out at the head of the new grant betwixt Cambridge Line and Lynn, quite throughout, land at such breadth as shall contain three thousand acres to remain as their proper land to accommodate with farms there such as they shall have occasion.

Second, That the bounds between Charlestown and the village shall be from the Partition of the Ponds to the north-west corner of Mr. Cradock's Farm, and from thence to that part of Lynn village (since called

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<sup>1</sup> See page 53. The last grant is in the following words: 1640, October 7. At a General Court: — Charlestowne petition is granted them the proportion of four miles square, with their former last grant to make a village; whereof five hundred acres is granted to Mr. Thomas Coytmore, to be set out by the Court, if the town and he cannot agree; in which they shall not cross Cambridge Line, nor come within a mile of Shawshine river, and the great swamp and pond to lie in common."

Reading) that turns from Charlestown head line by a straight line, provided that this line shall be half a mile from the lots in the nearest place; that the lands of the village bordering upon that common may have benefit of common for milch cattle and working cattle. And the village is to allow so much land as shall be taken in more than the straight line besides the three thousand acres.

Third, That the place of the village meeting house should be above the head of the old bounds near against Robert Cutlers."

This agreement, the Woburn Records say, "was in part assented to but afterwards denied." Difficulties arose; "many, fearing the depopulation" of Charlestown, "had a suspicious eye over" the villagers. A new committee were selected "to compound any differences;" they, "considering the weightiness of the work and the weakness of the persons," held first, a meeting for fasting and prayer, and then proceeded with their "great labor."<sup>1</sup> The Woburn Records note every step. One meeting was held "before Mr. Nowell and Mr. Symmes, who gave them no small discouragement;" at another, January 11, 1641, many, after having been admitted to sit down with the villagers, "being shallow in brains fell off;" at another, February 16, forty gathered to mark the "meets and bounds," when, "the way being so plain backward that divers never went forward again." At length, February 27, Mr. Nowell, "the noble Captain Sedgwick," Lieutenant Sprague and others, "advised the removal of the house lots, and place for the meeting house to the spot where they were finally located," near the centre of the town. The lots were laid out March 6, when the settlers began to build.

Before this time, however, the villagers had provided a local government. They met, December 18, 1640, at the house of Mr. Thomas Graves, in Charlestown, and agreed upon a series of "Town Orders," which were signed by thirty-two persons,<sup>2</sup> the

<sup>1</sup> "The committee were obliged to spend nights without shelter, "whilst rain and snow did bedew their rocky beds." They have recorded one remarkable providence as "never to be forgotten." Some of the company sheltering themselves under the body of a large tree, which lay at a distance from the ground, no sooner was the last of them come from under it, at break of day, than to their amazement it fell; and they were obliged to dig out their provisions, their united strength being insufficient to remove it." — Chickering's Dedication Sermon, p. 14.

<sup>2</sup> The names of the signers were: —

Edward Johnson,	John Seers,	Edward Winn,
Edward Converse,	John Wyman,	Henry Belden,
John Mousall,	Francis Wyman,	Francis Kendall,
Ezekiel Richardson,	Thomas Graves,	John Tedd,

most of them inhabitants of this town. The preamble to this document, which is too long to quote in full, reads as follows: "The free fruition of such liberties and privileges as humanity, civility and christianity calls for as due to every man with his place and proportion without impeachment and infringing, which hath ever been and ever will be; the tranquillity and stability of Christian Commonwealths, and the denial or the deprival thereof, the disturbance if not the ruin of both; we hold it therefore our duty,"<sup>1</sup> to subscribe "these orders." The gist of them was, that each inhabitant should pay sixpence for every acre then laid out, and for all afterwards twelpence; that all that did not build in fifteen months were to return their lots, and none were to sell to any but such as the town should approve of: that all orchards and garden plots were to be "well enclosed" by "pale or otherways;" that "no manner of person" should entertain "inmates either married or other," more than three days without the consent of "four of the Selectmen" under a penalty of sixpence for each day's offence; and, finally, that none were to cut young oak timber "under eight inches square" under penalty of five shillings for each offence. Small things, some may think, to follow so high sounding a preamble. But let them not be despised; for such are the fibres of our national tree.

In a few months the General Court extended to the villagers substantial encouragement. It repealed an existing law providing that no immunity should be granted to any new plantation, and the next entry on the records grants (June 14, 1641,) to Charlestown village "two years immunity from public rates from the end of this Court for such stock as they have there only." The next year is the act of incorporation: 1642, September 8:<sup>2</sup> "Charlestown

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Samuel Richardson,  
Thomas Richardson,  
William Learned,  
James Thomson,  
John Wright,  
Michael Bacon,  
James Britten,

Nicholas Davis,  
Nicholas Trarice,  
John Carter,  
James Converse,  
Daniel Bacon,  
James Parker,  
Thomas Fuller,

Henry Tottingham,  
Richard Lowden,  
William Greene,  
Benjamin Butterfield,  
Henry Jeffs,  
John Russell.

<sup>1</sup> This preamble is a mutilated transcript of the beginning of the "General Laws and Liberties of the Massachusetts Colony." See Massachusetts Collection, vol. xxxviii. p. 216 where these laws, drawn up by Ward, the author of the Simple Candler of Agawam, are reprinted.

<sup>2</sup> Colony Records. The date of May 18, in American Quarterly Register, vol. xi. p. 187, and p. 25 Chickering's Sermon is incorrect.

Village called Woburn.”<sup>1</sup> Henceforward Woburn is a town co-equal in rights and obligations, with its parent town. Its citizens regularly gather in town-meetings, choose selectmen,<sup>2</sup> manage their local affairs, and send their representative to the General Court.

The first volume of the Town Records of Woburn commences with the following narration of its history by its first Recorder, Edward Johnson: the reader may find more of the same kind of poetry in the author’s Wonder Working Providence:—

RECORDS FOR THE TOWNE OF WOBURNE

ffrom the year 1640 : the 8 : day of th : 10 month.

Paulis per Fui.<sup>3</sup>

In peniles age I Woburne Towne began ;  
 Charles Towne first mou’d the court my lins to span ;  
 To vewe my land-place, compild body reare,<sup>4</sup>  
 Nowell, Sims, Sedgwick, thes my paterons were.  
 Sum fearing I’d grow great upon these grounds,  
 Poor I wase putt to nurs among the clownes,<sup>5</sup>  
 Who being taken with such mighty things,  
 As had bin work of noble Queeins and Kings—  
 Till Babe gan crye and great disturbance make—  
 Nurses repent they did hur undertake.  
 One leaves her quite — another hee doth hie  
 To foren lands free from the Baby’s crye.  
 To (two) more of seaven, seeing nursing prou’d soe thwarte,  
 Thought it more ease in following of the carte.  
 A neighbour by, hopeing the Babe wold bee  
 A pritty Girl, to rocking hur went hee.

<sup>1</sup> Woburn is the name of a market town in Bedford county, England,—the population in 1830 was 1827.—McCulloch’s Gazetteer. It is also the name of a parish in Buckinghamshire. It is memorable for the case of a contested election in 1604, when a controversy concerning the election of Sir Francis Goodwin proved the cause of establishing the great constitutional doctrine, that the House of Commons have the sole right of deciding on the validity of their own elections and returns.—Lyson’s Buckinghamshire, p. 670.

<sup>2</sup> The first board of selectmen were, Edward Johnson, Edward Converse, John Mousall, William Learned, Ezekiel Richardson, Samuel Richardson and James Thomson. The first representative was Edward Johnson, who served in this capacity twenty-eight years, and for thirty years was town clerk.

<sup>3</sup> I have been a little while: “I” meaning the Town.

<sup>4</sup> This couplet required uncommon abbreviation ere the metre would come right to Johnson’s critical ear. “Compild body reare” means—my compact body to rear.

<sup>5</sup> The distinguished patrons of Woburn, fearing it would one day rival Charlestown, discouraged the enterprise, and gave it to those they regarded as of a lower grade in society, or as the “clownes.” But difficulties discouraged them also, and they “repent they did her undertake.”

Two nurses, less undanted then the rest,<sup>1</sup>  
 Ffirst houses finish — thus the Girle gane drest.  
 Its rare to see how this poore Towne did rise  
 By weakest means — too weak in great ons eys.  
 And sure it is, that mettells cleere extraction  
 Had neuer share in this poore Towns erection.  
 Without which metall, and sum fresh suplys,  
 Patrons conclud she neuer upp would rise.  
 If ever she mongst ladys have a station,  
 Say twas ffrom parentes, not her education.  
 And now conclud the Lords owne hand it wase  
 That with weak means did bring this work to pass.  
 Not only Towne, but Sister Church to ade,  
 Which out of Dust and ashes now is had.  
 Then all inhabit Woburne Towne stay make  
 The Lord, not means, of all you undertake.

But, many discouragements surmounted, the town was still but half founded: "It being," Johnson writes in his account of Woburn, "as unnatural for a right New England man to live without an able ministry, as for a smith to work his iron without a fire." Yet the villagers were prudent,— "not rashly running to gether themselves into a church, before they had hopes of attaining an Officer to preach the word, and administer the seals unto them;" and for some time they remained members of the Charlestown church. "Upon some hope they had of Mr. Carter's help," they applied (July 4, 1642,) for permission to form a new church. But the old society was "found backward," and they "were put off fourteen days, at which time, after much agitation, they had liberty to gather a church." They lost nothing, however, by waiting, as the history of Malden church will testify.

The Woburn church was organized August 14, 1642, when there were interesting services. Messengers from the neighboring churches formed the council, and Rev. Zechariah Symmes was the preacher. One of the magistrates, "the honored Mr. Increase Nowell," was present, both "to prevent the disturbance that might follow" the introduction into the infant church of "those cursed opinions that caused such commotion in this and the other colonies," and to "countenance the people of God in so pious a work." All about to enter into church communion, stood forth before this grave assembly, and related their religious experiences. After the elders had questioned them on doubtful points, and they had an-

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<sup>1</sup> "A neighbor by" is Johnson, the author of the metre in the text: the "two nurses" who persevered were John Mousall and Edward Converse. Mss. Com. of Rev. Samuel Sewall, to whom I am indebted for many favors.



swered "according to that measure of understanding the Lord had given them," and "all were satisfied," they entered into a covenant, and received the fellowship of the churches.<sup>1</sup>

A few months later, 1642, November 22, a minister was ordained. Thomas Carter came to this country in 1635, was made freeman in 1637, resided some time in Dedham, and, when invited to preach at Woburn, was a member of the Watertown church.<sup>2</sup> Johnson characterizes him as "apt to teach the sound and wholesome truths of Christ." The occasion of his induction into office furnished an eminent instance of lay ordination. It was not done without differences and discussion. The Woburn church had no elder, "nor any members fit," so Winthrop writes, "to solemnize such an ordinance." Some advised that the church should desire the elders of other churches to perform the ceremony; others, fearing the tendency to "a dependency of churches," and "so a presbytery, would not allow it." It was done by the laymen. After Mr. Carter "had exercised in preaching and prayer the greater part of the day," two persons in the name of the church laid their hands upon his head, and said, "We ordain thee, Thomas Carter, to be pastor of this church of Christ," and one of the elders closed by prayer. Winthrop was evidently displeased with the service: the ceremony, he writes, was performed "not so well and orderly as it ought."<sup>3</sup>

A controversy respecting the boundaries between the two towns continued several years. An unusual vote appears on the records relative to it, dated May 8, 1643, when it is stated that the "church" chose four men to settle the difficulties; the Woburn records also mention that the "church" of Charlestown appointed commissioners to act in relation to this business. How far the church claimed or exercised authority, in this transaction, does not appear. A few years later, March 17, 1646, the new town agreed "to send to the Selectmen of Charlestown" the following admirable letter,<sup>4</sup> a model of directness of purpose and Christian courtesy:—

"To our much respected and much approved good freinds of Charlestowne, chosen to order the prudentiall affaires therof.

"Much Respected and Antient freinds :

<sup>1</sup> The quotations are from *Wonder Working Providence*, chapter 22.

<sup>2</sup> *Amer. Quarterly Register*, vol. xi. p. 187.—Chickering's *Dedication Sermon*, p. 25.

<sup>3</sup> Winthrop, vol. ii. p. 91.

<sup>4</sup> Woburn Records.

Wee are Bould to interupt your presant presious Impliments with Request for Issue of those things which sartaine of our Beloved Brethren amoung you were chosen unto. Now our humble Request is, that they may End it forthwith. If otherwise they cannot so doe, our further Request is, that some others unintrested in the things may put a ffreindly Issue to the same. Our last Request is, that if nether of these will doe, then in a brotherly and ffreindly way to petition to the generall Court, that wee may not bequeth matter of diffurance to our postcryty. Thus with hope of a presant answer in uring to our see Resanabl Request,

Wee Remain yours to be commanded  
in all Saruis of love in Christ our Lord."

This letter did not produce an immediate settlement. In 1649, March 3, four of the selectmen of Woburn were chosen to speak with their "brethren of Charlestown" about "settling the bounds suddenly." At length, in 1651, January 10, the business was concluded, and an agreement entered at length upon the Records. It provides; first, that the line of division between the two towns shall run "from Cambridge Line by the north-west end of Mr. Nowell's lot and so all along between Mr. Symmes's farm and Edward Converse's farm until it come to the east side" of those adjoining Charlestown common: second, that Woburn shall have five hundred acres of land out of this common — making here a fence "of two rails" to constitute the boundary line between the two towns. Third, that Charlestown shall have three thousand acres of land within the bounds of Woburn, to begin "at the uttermost corner northerly, next Reading Line, and so to run southerly along two miles deep on the east side of Shawshine Line," till the tract amounted to three thousand acres.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Charlestown Records contain much matter about this tract, called the "Land of Nod." The town retained an interest in it; how much does not appear, but enough to produce trouble and litigation, and for a century (to 1742) committees were, at intervals, appointed to look after it. Still there is no clear account of this land in the records.

Charlestown, in a large division of its territory, April 23, 1638, allotted a tract, extending between Lynn and Cambridge, called the "Great Plot,"—the "remote lands" alluded to in the petition of 1640 (see page 105). When Woburn was incorporated it was agreed that the boundary line should run so that a part of this "Great Plot," together with five hundred acres of commons adjacent to it, should belong to Woburn; while Charlestown was recompensed by retaining the proprietorship of three thousand acres of land, lying at the northern extremity of the four mile square grant, though, for municipal purposes, this also was assigned to Woburn. This three thousand acres — described in the text — was called the "Land of Nod,"—the name being probably suggested by a comparison of its forlorn condition,—so far remote from church ordinances,—with the Nod to which Cain wandered when he went "from the presence of the Lord."—Genesis, iv. Its Indian name is given in an old deed, Nena Saawaattawatocks, and the "old Saggamore of these parts," was John Tahattawon.

Woburn, besides these difficulties, had trouble in dividing its own lands. There is extant a curious petition to the General Court, signed by twenty-five of its citizens, dated October 7, 1667, and

Though Woburn had municipal jurisdiction over Nod, yet it never claimed to own rights in its soil. Charlestown, accordingly, originally granted it to individuals. Under date of 1643 there is a record as follows:

"Proportions of Land granted out to these follo<sup>s</sup> :

Robert Sedgwick,	300.	William Stitson,	250.
Zacheriah Symmes,	300.	William Phillips,	200.
Thomas Allen,	300.	Ralph Woory,	200.
Richard Russell,	300.	Robert Cooke,	250.
Francis Willoughby,	300.	Thomas Graves,	250.
John Allen,	300.	Mr. Barnard,	200.

This was the original grant of Nod, though it was not laid out until seven years afterwards, nor lotted out until 1718. Of these proprietors, Graves and Sedgwick, Cooke and others, resigned their lots to the town. The latter, in 1652, granted five hundred acres of Nod to Captain Francis Norton, retaining a propriety of part of it. Nod lay in common for many years, some of its proprietors neglecting to look after it. Francis Willoughby bought the shares granted to Francis Norton and John Allen, and then owned one thousand one hundred and fifty acres. In 1683, May 1, Lawrence Hammond, who had married Governor Willoughby's widow, sold this quantity to John Hull. Judge Sewall married Mr. Hull's daughter, and thus came into the possession of rights in Nod. He (about 1703) authorized the Richardsons', of Woburn, to cut timber on it. On hearing of this, Charlestown appointed a committee to examine its rights to the land of Nod, who reported, 1704, December 25. The following is an extract from this report: "We are informed that there are several persons that claim part of that tract of land (Nod) which we cannot allow of, for we are very well satisfied that this tract of land was originally the land that Woburn exchanged with Charlestown, for lands then belonging to Charlestown, and we cannot find any record that this land was ever legally conveyed to any particular person."

The other claimants were five citizens of Andover, who exhibited a deed from "Sam Johnson, grandson and heir" of the old Saggamore Tahattawon, who for nine pounds relinquished, "all Indian and native rights" to Nod, or its native name Nena Saawaattawattocks. The town accepted the report of its committee, contested the right of Judge Sewall, and claimed the whole of Nod. The case was tried at a Special Court on the 18th of September, 1705, when the decision was against the town. The latter appealed to the Superior Court, which affirmed the former judgment. (Mss. Com. Rev. Samuel Sewall.) The result was, that the town had but a share of Nod, instead of owning the whole. The rights of individual proprietors being thus confirmed, they met at Charlestown, April 14, 1718, and voted to divide the whole three thousand acres. Captain Burnap, a noted surveyor, was employed to draw a plan of it.

In the same year, November 12, the land was lotted out. (Judge Sewall's Mss. Com. by Rev. Samuel Sewall.) After this, several committees were raised in relation to Nod. A vote of 1742, May 10, indicates that a part of the town's share of it had been sold, and a committee was then authorized to sell the remainder.

Such is the early history of Wilmington, incorporated in 1730, and made up of the land of Nod with a part of Reading. To this day the tract between Lubber's Brook and Andover Line, among the farmers of that region, goes by the soporific name of Nod.



beginning :—" May it please this honorable court to vouchsafe some help to our town of Woburn in dividing a lump of this wilderness earth." The church, however, lived in harmony with its minister more than forty-two years. Mr. Carter died September 5, 1684. In ten years the town increased to about sixty families—the church to seventy-four members. But it would be obviously improper to devote further space to Woburn—it shared largely in the early dangers, and partook of the prosperity of the country.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

1640 to 1650. — Commerce. — Bounty on Wolves. — Shops. — The Castle. — Harvard College. — The Tide Mills. — Town Hill. — Rate for a School. — Petition of the Ferry-men. — Customs on Wines. — Case of Witchcraft. — Town Order. — A Fire. — Johnson's Description of the Town.

For several years the town affords, in its corporate capacity, but few details for history. The civil war in England secured to the colonists the luxury of neglect, and Cromwell was their undisguised friend. "'Tis incredible," writes Nathaniel Mather, from London, in 1651, "what an advantage to preferment it is to have been a New Englishman."<sup>1</sup> During this period the towns were silently laying the foundations of their prosperity.

1640. The cessation of emigration was severely felt. Heretofore there had been a scarcity of goods. This year "there came over great store of provisions, both out of England and Ireland," and the market was glutted. All commodities grew very cheap, and "this evil," writes Winthrop, "was very notorious, that most men would buy as cheap as they could and sell as dear." The next year, he writes again, "corn would buy nothing, a cow which last year cost twenty pounds, might now be bought for four or five pounds,"<sup>2</sup> and the price of land declined in the same proportion.

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<sup>1</sup> Mather's Mss. in Mass. Hist. Society Archives.

<sup>2</sup> Winthrop's Hist. vol. ii.

1641. The town voted, "that whosoever should kill any wolf within the Neck, or in any part of the Milch-cow Common, shall receive from the constable of the town ten shillings for each wolf killed."

1642. Liberty was granted to the deacons to build shops on "the two sides of the meeting house;" in 1645 it was voted that the house "be floored over and two thirds to be carried on by Mr. Russell and a third by a general rate—Mr. Russell having liberty "to build shops on the outside of the house;" in 1648 Joshua Tedd had permission to build one "on the north-east side of the east door;" in 1652, Ensign Richard Sprague had the grant of "a place to set up a shop" near the meeting house, "also," the vote continues, "he and brother Tedd are to join, if brother Tedd will, in making the portal over the meeting house door. But if brother Tedd will not join, then the Ensign to make it alone and enjoy it, provided he do neither let the shop nor portal, or that on it, nor sell any of them to any person without the Townsmen's consent." At this time the town decided that no more shops should be built on any side of the house.

1643. The town assumed a part of the expense of maintaining the Castle on Castle Island, concerning which there is much matter on the Records. Two platforms and a small fortification, built of "lime burnt of oyster shells" in 1634, had decayed; and in 1637 the General Court contemplated discontinuing this defence. This year (1643) six towns, Boston, Charlestown, Roxbury, Dorchester, Cambridge and Watertown, believing they were too much exposed to an enemy, determined to rebuild the Castle, and in this, were encouraged by some of the magistrates, and the elders "in their sermons." The Court granted one hundred pounds towards maintaining it, "rather out of willingness to gratify these six towns, being near one half the Commonwealth for number of people and substance" than "any confidence of safety by it."<sup>1</sup> A rate of 1645, to support it, assigns Charlestown £20.16, Boston £52. A garrison of twenty men took care of it. For many years a tax for the Castle formed a part of the expenses of the town.

This year the Colony was divided into four counties, Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. There were thirty towns and plantations.

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<sup>1</sup> Winthrop's History, vol. ii. p. 115.

1644. The following vote was passed August 27. "It was agreed yt. one peck of wheat, or 12d. in money, shall be paid by every family towards the maintenance of the College at Cambridge. It is to be brought in to Sergeant Sprague's and John Pentecost by the 21st of the 12th month next ensuing." This humble contribution continued to be made many years. In 1647, for instance, "at a general meeting of the inhabitants," voted to continue to bring in unto Ensign Sprague and John Pentecost a peck of corn upon a house as in former years." In a record of contributions of eight years, the amount from Boston was £ 84.18.7. the next highest is Charlestown, £ 37.16.2. Its prominent citizens were active in promoting this great work. Mr. Willoughby, in 1639, gave twenty-five pounds. Major Sedgwick, in 1642, gave forty pounds, and afterwards a shop. Mr. Russell gave nine pounds. Mr. Nowell was a warm friend to it.

1645. An agreement, dated December 11, between John Fownell<sup>1</sup> the miller, and Robert Sedgwick and William Stitson part owners of the Tide Mill, at the Middlesex Canal Landing, stipulates that the former is to have one-third part of the profit of the mill a year for his services. By law he could not take "above one-sixteenth part of the corn he ground," and was obliged to keep ready for use "mill weights and scales." The owners were to allow "two ditchfuls of corn" every time the mill was dressed; eight gallons of lamp oil, for the use of the mill; and provide a house for the miller to reside in, or pay "thirty shillings per annum."

1646. The following vote, relating to the Town Hill, is one of the few original entries in volume second of the Records :

"At a meeting of the 7 men the 22d of the 12th moneth 1646.

"It was agreed that the ground on the top of Charlestowne Hill upon wh the windmill stands, reaching from the end of goody Shepherdsons garden pales on the one syde the highways going along forth right towards Mr. Syms his pales end, and the highway that goes along by his pales, and so along by Mr. Allen's pales in a square plot: this peece of ground to lye comon to the towne for ever, and not to be impropriated by any pertieular person, and if or bro: William Stitson can prove that it was given him, then hee to be payd a proportionable sume for it out of the skirts of land on the ends of the planting ground on mistick side."

1647, January 20. "It was agreed that a rate of fifteen pounds

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<sup>1</sup> The reader is requested to correct at the bottom of page 103; the name should be Fownell.

should be gathered of the town, towards the school for this year, and the five pounds that Major Sedgwick is to pay this year (for the island) for the school, also the town's part of Mistick wear for the School forever." In the margin, "allowance granted for the Town School."

1648. The ferrymen, Francis Hudson and James Heyden, state in a petition to the General Court, that the Ferry never was less productive: that contrary to law disorderly passengers would press into the boats, and on leaving refuse to pay their fare; that some pleaded they had nothing to pay, and others that they were in the country's service. And they further state, that the payment generally tendered was "usually in such refuse, unwrought, broken, unstrunged and unmerchantable peag," (wampum,) at six a penny, that they lost twopence a shilling, being forced to take peag at six a penny and pay it at seven. They petition that if the Court intend "all soldiers with their horses and military furniture be fare-free," that they might be paid for it by the colony: that strangers, not able to pay, may be ordered to give in their names: that "the peag hereafter to us paid may be so suitably in known parcels, handsomely stringed, and their value assigned, that it may henceforth be a general, current, and more agreeable pay." Probably in consequence of this petition, the Court, October 18, ordered that all "payable peag" should be "entire without breaches, both the white and black, suitably strung in eight known parcels, 1d, 3d, 12d, 5s., in white; and 2d, 6d, 2-6d, and 10s, in black." The Court also ordered that for transporting officers in the colony service, the ferryman should be allowed £ 4 per annum for the past, and £ 6 for the time to come.

The General Court "farm-let the customs on wines" imported into the colony, to Robert Sedgwick, Richard Russell, and Francis Norton, of this town; and David Yale of Boston. They agreed to pay £ 120 a year for four years, and were clothed with full power to collect these duties. This year the right to retail wines in this town and Boston was sold to Robert Long and other "vintners" for £ 160 a year.

Margaret Jones of this town, in May, was accused of witchcraft, the first case of this nature that occurred in Massachusetts. Her offence probably suggested the following order of the General Court, May 18. "The Court desire the course which hath

been taken in England<sup>1</sup> for discovery of witches by watching them a certain time: It is ordered that the best and surest way may forthwith be put in practice to begin this night if it may be, being the 18th of 3 month, and that the husband may be confined to a private room, and be also there watched." The course adopted with the unfortunate woman was an effectual one. The evidence against her was, first, that she had "a malignant touch," so that persons she afflicted were seized with deafness, vomiting, and violent pains: second, she practised as a physician, and though she used harmless medicines, as aniseed, liquors, &c., yet they produced "extraordinary violent effects:" third, she would tell those who would not employ her that they never would be healed, and in consequence "their diseases and hurts" baffled "the apprehension of all physicians and surgeons:" fourth, some things which she foretold came to pass accordingly, and she could tell other things, as private speeches, of which she had no ordinary means to come to the knowledge. There were other charges not necessary to detail. For such things this poor creature was condemned to suffer death, and was executed,—hanged,—in Boston, June 15.

Winthrop gravely records, that on "the same day and hour she was executed there was a very great tempest at Connecticut, which blew down many trees, &c." And several days later (June 28) that "the *Welcome* of Boston, about 300 tons, riding before Charlestown, having in her 80 horses and 120 tons of ballast, in calm weather, fell a rolling, and continued so about twelve hours." The husband of the witch desired a passage in her to Barbadoes. The magistrates, on hearing of it, sent a warrant to apprehend him, when the ship ceased its diabolical rolling, and after Jones was in prison "moved no more."<sup>2</sup>

1649. The following order, — to be found among the original documents of this period, — is copied as a specimen of the earliest by-laws of the town. The date is Jan. 22, 1649.

"At a meeting of the selectmen the 22d of the 11th moneth, 1648 :— In regard of the great damage that hath come, not only unto peticular

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<sup>1</sup> There is nothing on the Town Records relating to this case of witchcraft. In England, where thirty thousand witches have been executed, the practice was various. The town of Lynn, England, voted, May 11, 1646, "that Alderman Thomas Rivett be requested to send for Mr. Hopkins, the witch-discoverer, to come to Lynn, and his charges and recompense to be borne by the town." *Richard's Lynn*, vol. ii. p. 724.

<sup>2</sup> Winthrop's History, vol. ii. p. 326.



persons, but to the whole towne by swine, through the multitude of them, and there not being sufficiently youkt and runge according untoo former orders : It is therefore ordered by the selectmen that no inhabitant of this towne shall keep above twoo swine abroad eyther upon the comon or in the towne : also that all swine shal bee shutt up every night, and on the Lords dayes : and that all swine that doe goe abroad shalbee sufficiently youkt and runge, that is each swine above a year ould their youks to bee twoo foot long, and every youk is to have a pick upward of six inches high : and every swine which is found defective the owner is to forfeit twelve pence for each defect : and all the swine that goe abroad are to be runge by the 28th day of the 11th moneth 1648 : and youkt by the 10th day of the first moneth 1649."

1650. Johnson relates that there was "a terrible fire" in this town in the depth of winter. The wind was violent, and it "consumed the fairest houses of the town." He devotes one of his metres to this calamity :

"Thy houses were consumed with much good store,  
By fearful fires, which blustering winds blew o're."

This writer also takes this occasion to sum up other calamities, as the manifestation "of the rod of God" towards the colonists : in Charles River the *Mary Rose* blew up and "sunk in a moment with about thirteen men slain therein : " "many men, under pretext of being unequally rated, murmured exceedingly, and withdrew their shoulders from the support of government ; " "pride and excess of apparel were frequent," and "far worse," spiritual pride delighted "in new-fangled doctrines."

Johnson also furnishes the following description of Charlestown, which will as well apply to this year as to any other. "This town of Charles is situated on the north side of Charles River, from whence it took its name, the river being about five or six fathom deep. Over against the town (are) many small islands lying to the seaward of it, and hills on either side. By which means it proves a very good harbor for ships, which hath caused many seamen and merchants to sit down there. The form of this town in the frontispiece thereof, is like the head, neck and shoulders of a man, only the pleasant and navigable river of Mistick runs through the right shoulder thereof, and by its near approach to Charles River, in one place, makes a very narrow neck, by which means the chief part of the town, whercon the most buildings stands, becomes a Peninsula. It hath a large market-place near

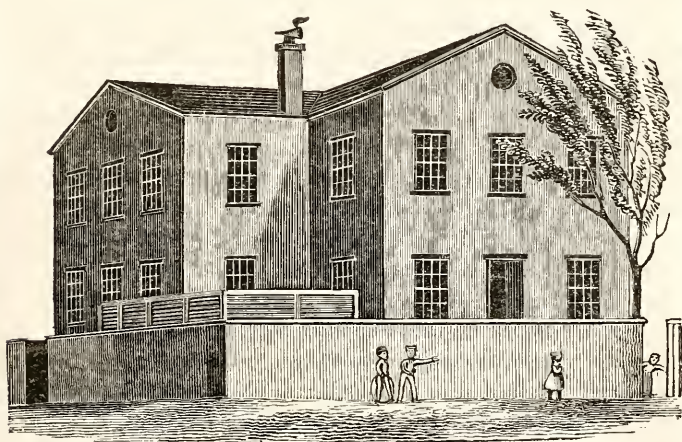
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<sup>1</sup> The General Court, May 5, 1650, remitted to those who had their houses destroyed, £ 7.16 due by them for taxes.

the water side built round with houses, comely and fair, forth of which there issue two streets orderly built with some very fair houses, beautified with pleasant gardens and orchards. The whole town consists in its extent of about one hundred and fifty dwelling houses. Their meeting house for Sabbath assembly stands in the market place, very comely built and large. The officers of this church are at this day one pastor, and one teacher, one ruling elder and three deacons, the number of souls are about one hundred and sixty. Wonderful it is to see that in so short a time such great alterations Christ should work for these poor people of his. Their corn land in tillage in this town is about twelve hundred acres: their great cattle are about four hundred head; sheep near upon four hundred. As for their horse, you shall hear of them, God willing, when we come to speak of their military discipline.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wonder Working Providence, chapter 18. This history purports to come down to 1652, and was printed in 1654.



WARREN SCHOOL HOUSE.  
BUILT 1840.

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## CHAPTER XV.

1650. — Mistick Side. — Settlements. — Malden Incorporated. — Church Gathered. — Marmaduke Matthews — his Ordination. — Congregationalism. — Matthews accused — his Defence — his Confession — his Fine. — Petition in his Behalf — his Confession to the Court. — Malden Church Arraigned — its Defence — its Fine. — Submission of the Church. — Departure of Matthews. — Malden Ministers.

THE grant of the land, now Malden, to Charlestown, with the first division of it, has been already noticed.<sup>1</sup> In 1638, April 6, the town voted to reserve a large part of it "for such desirable persons as should be received in," or for "such as may come with another minister;" which is described as lying "at the head of the five acre lots" and "running in a straight line from Powder Horn Hill to the head of North River, together with "three hundred acres above Cradock's Farm." With this exception, the greater portion of the tract which, until 1724, was Malden, was divided, April 23, 1638, among the inhabitants of Charlestown.

Before the year 1640, a few of the inhabitants had settled at Mistick side. In a few years, from 1641 to 1648, there are records of highways having been made, commonage provided, and the public fields rented. In 1649, January 1, a large committee was chosen from the inhabitants residing on this side of the river, "to meet three chosen brethren on Mistick side," to agree upon the terms of a separation, and the boundaries of a new town. This committee made an elaborate Report beginning: "To the end the work of Christ, and the things of his house there in hand, may be more comfortably carried on, it is agreed as followeth:" that the Mistick side men should be a town by themselves. Among the conditions, were these, that Charlestown should retain Nowell's and Wilson's farms, that it should have liberty to water cattle at the North Spring until harvest time, and that Malden should bear a part of the burden of maintaining the Battery of this town and the Castle. The remaining clauses, with one exception, relate to commonage, landing places, and highways. The tenth condition reads thus: "For further encouragement of the work aforesaid we acquit the

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<sup>1</sup> See page 52.



inhabitants within the line of Charlestown from church charges for three years next ensuing and no more.”<sup>1</sup> In all these proceedings there appears to have been remarkable harmony,—the Malden people being generally mentioned as “our brethren,” and “our friends.” The town was soon incorporated; the Colony Records say, May 2, 1649; “upon the petition of Mistick side men, they are granted to be a distinct town, and the name thereof to be “Maulden.”<sup>2</sup>

During this period, or until 1650, the “Mistick side men,” although they had probably gathered a church, had no ordained minister; and Mr. Sargeant “a Godly Christian,” and “some young students from the College,” “broke to them the seals.” In 1650 they invited Rev. Marmaduke Matthews to settle with them.<sup>3</sup> He was born in Swansea, graduated at Oxford February 20, 1624, at the age of eighteen; arrived in this country September 21, 1638; and, with his wife Catharine, united with the Boston Church February 6, 1639.<sup>4</sup> He settled first at Yarmouth; and afterwards, it is supposed in 1644, removed to Hull.

Mr. Matthews was very zealous in his profession, a decided spiritualist, and had many peculiarities of character. His style of preaching, and his opinions on doctrinal points, differed from those of his contemporaries; and this lost him the “approbation of some able understanding men, among both magistrates and ministers.” Among other things, he held the “Scriptures to be the foundation of a dogmatical and historical faith, but not of a saving faith.”<sup>5</sup> To-day he would probably be classed as of the transcendental school of divines. In his time, so exceptionable were his views, that the General Court, as early as 1649, judged him guilty of uttering expressions, some of which were “erroneous,” and others “weak, inconvenient and unsafe;” and ordered Governor Endicott, in its name, to admonish him.”<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Charlestown Records.

<sup>2</sup> Colony Records. Malden is the name of a parish in the county of Surrey, England. It was written Mældune by the Saxons, being composed of two words *mal*, a cross and *dune*, a hill. In the Conqueror's Survey it is spelt Meldone; in subsequent records it is written Meaudon, Mauden, Maldon and Malden. — Lyson's Environs of London, vol. i. p. 241. Maldon is the name of a market town in Essex county.

<sup>3</sup> Wonder Working Providence, book iii. chap. 7.

<sup>4</sup> Hon. James Savage.

<sup>5</sup> Mass. Hist. Col., vol. xxxi. p. 31.

<sup>6</sup> Colony Records. Mr. Matthews appears to have left Hull in 1649,

When such was the standing of Mr. Matthews, it was natural that his preaching should be narrowly watched, and that the jealous should find in its peculiarities, more "unsafe and unsound" expressions. Hence two churches, Charlestown and Roxbury, wrote to their Malden brethren not to ordain him as their minister. The latter, in reply, requested that any "sin" in their pastor elect might be pointed out, and they would consider it. No reply was received from Roxbury, previous to the ordination, and only the views of Mr. Nowell from Charlestown; but whether in behalf of the church or as a magistrate, is not stated. Mr. Matthews was ordained; "although some neighbor churches," Johnson says, "were unsatisfied therewith:" "without," Hubbard writes, "the approbation of neighboring churches and allowance of the magistrates, if not against the same."

At this period the ecclesiastical polity of the Colony, though settled by the Cambridge Platform, had not been practically defined. There appear to have prevailed two opinions relative to the rights of the churches. One was, that congregationalism was substantial independency; or a right and capacity in each church to maintain a pure worship, elect and ordain its officers, and manage its affairs.<sup>2</sup> The other was, that congregationalism was consistent with a hierarchy, of which the State was the proper head; and as such, that it was the duty of the civil power to protect the churches from heresy and schism. The Malden church took the former ground, and hence proceeded independently of the advice of other churches, or of the magistrates. For this, it was accused before the General Court, which took this occasion to define its authority over the churches. It is their connection with this principle, that makes the details of this controversy as important as they are curious.

The Court dealt first with Mr. Matthews, who was cited to appear before it; and, June 18, 1650, granted "time to give satisfaction." Besides failing to do this, he gave new offence at Malden;

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as this town petitioned the Court to encourage him "to return to them." The Court, May 2, 1649, thought it "no way meet" to grant this request.

<sup>2</sup> The Cambridge Platform (1648) claimed for the churches, as their right, the power of ordaining their officers, which was defined "the solemn putting a man into his place and office in the church, whereunto he had rights before by election."—Chap. xi. 2. 4. See an excellent note on this point in *American Quarterly Register*, vol. xii., by the Rev. Samuel Sewall.

for, a year later, 1651, May 7, he was again summoned before the same tribunal to answer concerning "former and later miscarriages." On the 15th the passages he had delivered in his sermons were read by his accusers; which, "though he owned them not," were proved upon him, under oath, by depositions from such citizens as Thomas Lynde<sup>1</sup> and John Hawthorne. Mr. Matthews replied to them in detail, commencing as follows:—

"To ye accusations exhibited against Marmaduke Mathewes before ye general court at Boston ye 15 of ye 3 month 1651. In his name and presence whose I am, and whom I desire to serve, and yt wth Child like frame,—as also forevermore to rejoyce in, and yt with christian trembling, I ye sayd accused, M. M. thinke good thus to answeare."

This paper, dated May 26, is an elaborate document, that would occupy several pages of this type.<sup>2</sup> One accusation, with a part of the answer to it, will serve as a specimen of the theology of the day:

"8 Accusation. That the saints have more varieties of righteousness than Christ, for Christ hath only a double righteousness, and the saints have a trebble.

"Answer. Tis true that having treated about the freeness of Christs grace to sinners according to what was expressed in the point of Christs purpose towards the rebellious, my scope then was to treat also of the fulness of his grace to his saints, which I did dispatch by the only explaining of one word as tis in the original (1) righteousnesses in —, 45. 24, tis rendered truly righteousness in the margin of many Bibles: implying that Christ is not only very free but also very full of grace to his believing servants, in that he affords unto them not only a single righteousness, or a righteousness of imitation, for the resembling of righteous ones in respect of outward conversation, which was all the righteousness that the Pharisee had, or civil honest persons have for to shew, but comes short of qualifying for the Kingdom of Heaven—witness Christs words Mal. 5, 20—nor meerly a double righteousness, or a righteousness of infusion, both which were all the righteousnesses that Adam in Paradise had, or the elect Angels in Heaven have, as the blessed angels have no more, so believing sinners have no less, witness Eph. 9. 20., but a trebble righteousness or a righteousness of imputation, witness 2 cor. 5, 21: Phil. 3. 10, which is more than Christ himself either hath or doth need to make himself righteous. Twas far from me to either to say or suppose that Christ Jesus doth give to others more than he hath to give, as twas both ingeniously and publickally reported in the presence of many hundreds of men.

"'Twas nor a solecism nor any absurdity to affirm that Christ Jesus hath more variety of righteousnesses for to make others righteous than he hath

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<sup>1</sup> The church of Malden censured Mr. Lynde for his testimony against Mr. Matthews. At a council held in Boston, March 4, 1651, a letter signed Edward Rawson, secretary, was addressed to the Malden church, in which they were requested, before they proceeded so far as excommunication, to consult the neighbor churches. This was done, the letter says, "without any intention or desire in the least to infringe the liberty the Lord Jesus Christ hath purchased for his church."—Mass. Hist. Col., vol. xxviii. p. 325.

<sup>2</sup> It is in Mass. Archives, Vol. Ecclesiastical.

to make himself righteous: no more than it is to say that he hath more variety of graces, as restraining grace (or fear of men) or renewing grace (as repentance from dead works) to bestow on others for to make them gracious, than he hath in himself for to make himself gracious."

This defence, certainly not free from "inconvenient" expressions, was unsatisfactory to the Court; and a special commission was instituted to examine Mr. Matthews on doctrinal points. For consenting to be ordained, he was fined ten pounds, which he was ordered to pay within a month, provided he did not make "an humble acknowledgment of his sin;" and for ordaining him, the Malden church was summoned to answer at the next Court.

The commission consisted of "Mr. Simon Broadstreet, Mr. Samuel Simonds, Captain William Hawthorne, Captain Edward Johnson, Mr. John Glover, Captain Eleazer Lusher, Captain Daniel Gookin, Mr. Richard Brown and Captain Humphrey Ather-ton,"—gallant and able men, doubtless, but severely representative of the intolerance of the times. The Court, however, provided for an addition to it, by instructing the commission to call in "the reverend elders" in case of difficulty.

Mr. Matthews was cited to appear on the 11th of June; and on the 15th, he favored this ecclesiastical tribunal of civilians and soldiers with the following confession:—

"To ye Honored Committee of ye Generall Court appointed to examine some doctrinall points delivered att Hull and since yt time at Malden by M. M.

Honored of God and of his people;

"Haveing given you an account of my sence and of my faith in ye conclusions wch were accused before you, I thought good to acquaint you, yt, if any among you (or others) should count that faith a fansie, and that sence to be non-sence, I desire yt God may forgive them: I doe, conceaving yt such doe not yet soe well know what they doe, as they shall know hereafter.

"Yet in case yt this should reach any satisfaction to such as are (yett) unsatisfied with my expressions for to know that I doe acknowledge yt there be sundrie defects in sundry points yt I have delivered, I doe hereby signifie yt through merey I cannot but see and also ingenuously confesse yt some of my sayings are nor safe nor sound in the superlative degree: to wit: they are not most safe; nor yett eyther sound or safe in a comparative degree; for I easily yeald yt not onely wiser men probably would, but also I my self possiblie mought have made out<sup>1</sup> x's mynd and my owne meaning in termes more sound and more safe than I have done had I not been too much wanting both to his sacred majesty, whose unworthy messenger I was, and also to my hearers, and to my self, for wch I desire to be humbled, and of wch I desire to be healed by ye author of both. As I

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<sup>1</sup> Christ's mind.

doe not doubt but yt conscientious and charitable-hearted Christians (whose property and practise it is to put uppon doubtfull positions not ye worst construction but ye best) will discern, as I doe, yt there is a degree of soundness in what I doe owne, though but a positive degree.

“However it is and (I trust) for ever shall be, my care to be more circumspect than I have hitherto been in avoyding all appearances yt way for ye time to come, yt soe I may ye better approve my self through ye grace of Christ and to ye Glory of God, such a workman as need not be ashamed. In ye interim I remayne amongst his unworthy servants ye most unworthy, and

Boston this 13th of ye  
4 month, 1651.

Your accused and condemned  
fellow-creature to command  
in ye things of Christ  
Marmaduke Matthews.

The hint which the ingenious preacher gave his stern tribunal, to act as charitable-hearted Christians, was lost upon them. In two days (June 17) the committee declared themselves “much unsatisfied” with the confession, finding “several particulars weak, unsafe and unsound, and not retracted by him;”<sup>1</sup> and the marshal proceeded to collect the fine. But the “condemned” was a poor subject for fines: “he lived above the world, and depended wholly upon providence for the support of himself and family.”<sup>2</sup> The officer could only find a library; and the General Court, in October, permitted the execution “to be respited until other goods appear besides books.”<sup>3</sup>

Meantime Mr. Matthews appears to have retained the confidence of his congregation, or the majority of it.”<sup>4</sup> It was his custom

<sup>1</sup> Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. xxxi. p. 30.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Calamy, Non-Conformist Memorial, vol. iii. p. 504.

<sup>3</sup> Colony Records.

<sup>4</sup> Even Johnson, (book iii. chapter 7,) than whom none treated heresy more sternly, seems loth to give up Matthews. Notwithstanding what had passed, he says, “he will not miss to mind him in the following meeter,”—perhaps one of his most expressive verses.

“Mathews! thou must build gold and silver on  
That precious stone, Christ cannot trash indure,  
Unstable straw and stubble must be gone,  
When Christ by fire doth purge his building pure,  
In seemly and in modest terms do thou  
Christ's precious truths unto thy folk unfold,  
And mix not error with the truth, least thou  
Soon leave out sense to make the truth to hold:  
Completing of Christs Churches is at hand,  
Mathews stand up and blow a certain sound,  
Warriours are wanting Babel to withstand,  
Christs truths maintain, 't will bring the honors crown'd.”



to make no visits but such as were properly ministerial, and to receive none but in a religious manner; and ties thus formed were not to be weakened by fines. The female portion of his flock sent to the General Court, October 28, 1651, the following petition, — valuable as a record of the names, and christian spirit, of the early matrons of the town: —

“To the Hon’d Court;

“The petition of many inhabitants of Malden and Charlestown of Mistick side humbly sheweth:

“That the Almighty God in great mercie to our souls as we trust, hath, after many prayers, endeavors, and long waiting, brought Mr. Matthews among us, and put him into the work of the ministry: By whose pious life and labors the Lord hath afforded us many saving convictions, directions, reproofs and consolations, whose continuance in the service of Christ if it were the good pleasure of God, we much desire: and it is our humble request to this honourd Court, that you would please to pass by some personal and particular failings (which may as we humbly conceive be your glory and no grief of heart to you in time to come) and to permit him to employ those talents God hath furnished him withal. So shall we your humble petitioners with many others be bound to pray &c.

28 — 8 — 51.

Mrs. Sergeant,	Sarah Bucknam.	Eliz. Mirrable.
Joan Sprague.	Thanklord Sheppie.	Sarah Osbourn.
Jane Learned.	Fran. Cooke.	An Hett.
Elizabeth Carrington,	Eliz. Knowker.	Mary Pratt.
Bridget Squire.	Bridget Dexter.	Eliz. Green.
Mary Wayte.	Lydia Greenland.	Joan Chadwicke.
Sarah Hills.	Margaret Pemerton.	Margret Green.
An Bible.	Han. Whitmore.	Helen Luddington.
Eliz. Green.	Eliz. Green.	Susan Wellington.
Wid. Blancher.	Mary Rust.	Joana Call.
Eliz. Adams.	Eliz. Grover.	Rachel Attwood.
Rebec Hills.	Han. Barret.	Margre Welding.”

At the same time, 1651, October 28, Mr. Matthews addressed another confession “to the honored Court,” declaring that he was “in some measure sensible of his great insufficiency to declare the counsil of God unto his people;” that he “was very apt to let fall some expressions that are weak and inconvenient;” but that it was his desire “to avoid all appearances of evil therein for time to come as in all other respects whatsoever.”<sup>1</sup> But the Court continued inexorable; neither the petition nor the confession procuring a remittance of the fine.

Meantime the General Court, at a full meeting October 24, 1651, arraigned the Malden Church for its share of the sin in or-

<sup>1</sup> This document is printed in Mass. Hist. Col., vol. xxxi. pp. 31, 32.

daining Mr. Matthews. The defence of the church, dated October 28, is a manly and well prepared document. It argues, first, that the offensive expressions delivered at Malden were not so much before ordination as after, and "for the business of Hull," Mr. Matthews had undergone his punishment and "stood clear in law:" second, that in case they had "swerved from any rule of Christ" they should have been proceeded with "in a church way," for they "both owned and honored church communion;" third, that they had invited two churches, before ordination, to pursue this course, and were ready to reply to any charges of "sin" they had committed: fourth, they begged the Court to consider what passed between them and the magistrates, and "that no return was made only by Mr. Nowell:" fifth, that it was with grief of heart they seemed "to wave or undervalue" the "advice of any magistrate or church, but considering the liberty of the churches allowed by law to choose their own officers and apprehending him (Mr. Matthews) to be both pious, able and orthodox, as the law provides, we proceeded." The gist of the document, however, is contained in the last specification,—a part of which reads as follows:—

"Our plea is, that we know no law of Christ or the country, that binds any church of Christ not to ordain their own officers without advice of magistrates and churches. We freely acknowledge ourselves engaged to any that in love afford any advice unto us, but we conceive a church is not bound to such advice farther than God commends it to their understanding and conscience. And if a church act contrary to such advice, we see not how, or by what rule, they are bound to take offence against a church of Christ in that respect,—namely, for not attending that advice, or that a church of Christ so doing should be concluded offenders in any court of justice, and so plead our laws allow every church free liberty of all the ordinances of God according to the rule of the scripture; and in particular, free liberty of selection and ordination of all their officers, from time to time, provided they be pious, able and orthodox. And that no injunction shall be put upon any church officer or member, in point of doctrine or discipline, whether for substance or circumstance, besides the Institutes of the Lord."

This remarkable plea did not prove a valid one with the Court. In three days, October 31, the church received the following sentence:—

"Ordered, that the members of the Church of Malden shall be fined for their offences the sum of fifty pounds, which shall not extend to any person that hath given this Court satisfaction, and that consented not to Mr. Matthews' ordination. And it is further ordered, that the said fifty pounds shall be levied by execution on the estates of Mr. Joseph Hills, Edward Carrington and John Wait, who are hereby empowered to make proportion of the said sum on the rest of the members of the church, except before excepted."

Subsequently, the church was charged, "speedily to consider the errors Mr. Matthews stands charged with in Court." An ecclesiastical council, composed of messengers of the churches of Charlestown, Cambridge, Lynn and Roxbury, was gathered, which considered the whole case and reported to the Court, May 26, 1652. On this day, in answer to petitions, the Court declared it saw no cause to remit the church's or the pastor's fine, "the country being put to so great trouble, charge and expenses in the hearing of the cause." On the 19th of October, however, the fine of Mr. Matthews was remitted in full, and ten pounds of that of the church.

But the General Court, firmly established its power over the churches: it aimed to preserve them as well from incompetent as from heretical pastors. In 1653 it prohibited any to preach or prophecy without the consent of neighbor churches or the county court. This called forth a letter of remonstrance from the Salem church, in which the first reason against this law is this:—

"First, because it intrencheth upon the liberties of the several churches, who have power (as is confessed by all the orthodox) to choose and set up over them, whom they please for their edification and comfort without depending on any other power and if a breach be once made into these liberties, we know not how far it may proceed in time, there being such a leading example as this."<sup>1</sup>

But this was of no avail. The law was sustained; and churches if in the view of the Court schismatical, or acting in a corrupt way, or "contrary to the rule of the word," fared no better than individuals; the civil magistrate might put forth his coercive power as the case required.<sup>2</sup>

In a short time, individuals of the majority submitted to the Court. Several,<sup>3</sup> in May, 1655, "humbly acknowledged the offence they gave to the Court and several churches about ordaining Mr. Matthews," and prayed for a release from £13. 6s. 8d., the remainder of their fine. Edward Carrington, one of the three made responsible for the whole fine followed, October 28, 1658, their example. He states that the Lord had convinced him of the evil of being of the majority; but that it was not in his

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<sup>1</sup> Felt has preserved the whole of this excellent letter in his *Annals of Salem*, p. 533. See also Woburn Memorial in *Mass. Hist. Coll.*, vol. xxxi.

<sup>2</sup> Cambridge Platform, chap. xi. 9.

<sup>3</sup> Their names were, Joseph Hills, Abram Hill, John Waite, Jno. Sprague, Ralph Shepherd, John Upham, James Greene and Thomas Call.



power to collect fines of "his poor, unable and absent brethren;" and he prays that some meet person may be appointed to receive these fines, or that they be remitted, or that he may be allowed to pay his proportion, and be released from the rest. The magistrates voted to accept his part of the fine, and to give the remainder "to the town for a town stock;" but the deputies would not consent to it."<sup>1</sup> The General Court finally referred the whole subject of abating the fines to the Middlesex County Court; which, June 19, 1660, ordered the majority of the church to "give a clear account of all their proceedings" to a commission of three, Richard Sprague, Edwin Oakes and Ephraim Child; who were instructed to report at the next Court. This does not appear to have been done: but in 1662 the same Court abated ten pounds of the fine of Edward Carrington.

Mr. Matthews soon returned to England, where he continued to preach, in Swansey, in a small chapel, by the connivance of the magistrates. "He had," writes Dr. Calamy, "no estate, but subsisted by the piety of his children, of whom two or three were sober conformists, and by the kindness of relatives and friends, which made him sometimes pleasantly say; "he was comfortably maintained by the children of God, his own children, and the children of the world." "He lived to a good old age, and continued useful to the last. He died about 1683."<sup>2</sup>

During nearly thirty years, there are but few allusions on the records to Malden. Mr. Matthews was succeeded, as early as 1654, by Rev. Michael Wigglesworth, a distinguished divine and physician; who for nearly half a century, until 1705, was the regular pastor of the church. He was of feeble constitution, and for twenty years unable to discharge the duties of his office. Yet the people generously supplied him with aid. Benjamin Bunker,<sup>3</sup> from 1663 to 1669, Benjamin Blackman in 1679, Thomas Cheever and Mr. Upham, preached at Malden. In 1662 the church

<sup>1</sup> In the proceedings in this, from first to last, there was far from unanimity. In the vote of censure (May 1651) fifteen of the deputies recorded their names as "contradicentes;" and in October of the same year, ten,—among the latter Richard Bellingham the deputy governor.

<sup>2</sup> Non-Conformist Memorial, vol. iii. p. 11.

<sup>3</sup> Benjamin Bunker was the son of George Bunker, of this town, (see p. 83,) a graduate of Harvard College in 1658. He settled at Malden, 1663, December 9, and died February 2, 1670. It was his father, George, that signed the remonstrance in Mr. Wheelright's favor and was disarmed. The reader is requested to make the correction on pp. 73, 74.

had so far regained the good opinion of the Court as to obtain a grant of one thousand acres of land which was laid out at Worcester. The early records of Malden are lost. There are no church records until Dr. Thatcher's ministry, and no town records before 1678,—when the by-laws, curious and quaint though they are, indicate a thriving community, striving to maintain the blessings of health and order.<sup>1</sup>

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## CHAPTER XVI.

Ecclesiastical History—1649 to 1650.—Thomas Allen.—Theological Controversies.—Samuel Gorton.—The Baptists.—The Cambridge Platform.—Death of Thomas Allen.

REV. Zechariah Symmes remained sole pastor of the church but a few months. In the year Harvard died, Thomas Allen arrived in Boston. He was the son of John Allen, a dyer of Norwich, born in 1608, and educated at Caius College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of Master of Arts in 1631. He was minister of St. Edmunds, of the city of Norwich, where about 1636, he was silenced by Bishop Wren, for refusing to read the Book of Sports and conform to other innovations; and hence emigrated to this country. In 1639, January 11, he was admitted a member of the church of Boston, in the records of which he is called "a student." On the succeeding June 9th, at his own desire and that of the Charlestown church, he was dismissed from Boston; admitted to this church December 22, and probably soon after became its teacher.

During the eleven years of the joint ministry of Messrs. Symmes and Allen, the churches were occupied with interesting and important questions, that supplied the place, though in a moderate degree, of the Antinomian strife. There was the controversy respecting Gorton; the synod that established the Cambridge Platform; the commencement of the Baptist controversy, and of the proceedings

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<sup>1</sup> Wright's Historical Discourse on Malden. Mr. Wright furnishes no facts about Matthews, and does not mention his name.

against the Malden church and minister. The Charlestown records of this date, afford no information of the action of this church upon these subjects. They only contain the record of one hundred and twenty-three persons admitted from 1639 to 1651, with an imperfect list of the baptisms.<sup>1</sup>

Samuel Gorton was imprisoned in this town on account of his opinions. He was, in the language of the time, a minister of "very heretical principles, a prodigious minter of exorbitant novelties, even the very dregs of familism;"<sup>2</sup> in the judgment of to-day, "a wild but benevolent enthusiast, who used to say, Heaven was not a place, there was no Heaven but in the hearts of good men, no hell but in the mind."<sup>3</sup> The magistrates judged him worthy of death,—the deputies of the lighter penalty of imprisonment,—"to be kept at work and to wear such bolts and irons as might hinder his escape." In 1644, March 7, he was released on the condition that he should leave the Colony in fourteen days. Perhaps this notice will be a sufficient introduction to the following extract:—

"When this order of the Court was presented to Samuel Gorton, by the constable of Charlestown, bringing a smith with him, to file off his bolts, he told the constable he was not willing to part with his irons on these terms, but expected fairer terms of release, than were therein expressed, desiring him to go to Master Nowell, who lived in that town, and declare so much unto him. In short time the constable returned, bringing divers of the chief men in the town with him, and commanded the smith to fall to work to file off his bolts, who did accordingly, and so took them from him, leaving the said Gorton either to walk abroad, on such conditions, or else stay at his peril."<sup>4</sup>

The increase of the Baptists caused great alarm in the colony. They were treated with double injustice by our fathers; who first associated them with the savage reformers of Munster; and then inflicted upon them excommunication, fines, imprisonment and banishment. The colony law of 1644 reads as follows:—

"If any person within this jurisdiction shall either openly condemn or oppose the baptism of infants, or go about secretly to seduce others from the approbation or use thereof, or shall purposely depart the congregation at the ministration of the ordinance, or, &c., and shall appear to the Court willfully and obstinately to continue therein after due time and means of conviction, every such person shall be sentenced to banishment."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The inquirer will find a valuable catalogue of the admissions into the church from 1632 to 1787 in Rev. W. I. Budington's *History of the First Church of Charlestown*.

<sup>2</sup> Hubbard, p. 402.

<sup>3</sup> Bancroft's *Hist.*, vol. i. p. 419.

<sup>4</sup> *Simplicity's Defence against Seven Headed Policy*, p. 75.

<sup>5</sup> *Savage's Winthrop*, vol. ii. p. 175.

Persons were fined for reading Anabaptist books. Probably for offences of this nature Stephen Fosdick, of this town, was fined twenty pounds; and, May 7, 1643, was excommunicated<sup>1</sup> from the church. In 1647 he petitioned the Court, that as his house, burnt while in the sheriff's hands, was worth fifteen pounds, he might be released by paying the remaining five pounds.<sup>2</sup> A few years later, (1664,) on making an acknowledgment and confession, the church granted him absolution. The record of this is in the following words :

"The covenant of the church being (for the summe of it) a solemn promise or engagement to walk with God, and with his people according to the word of God, I do now heartily approve of it, and close with it, and am sorry that I have at any time spoken against it: Having neglected likewise to hear the church in their dealings with me for my offence, I do unfeignedly repent thereof, and desire God and his people to forgive me."

"This was read to the church, accepted by all as satisfactory; he was (the brethren consenting) received to that state of communion which he had before his excommunication; and by the sentence of the Eldership declared to be soe restored."<sup>3</sup>

A petition, praying the Court to abrogate the laws in relation to Anabaptists and foreigners, has on it the name of Robert Sedgwick and others, of this town; the Court declared, in reply, that these laws "should not be altered or explained at all;" and in 1646, a counter petition, prayed for their enforcement.

The other exciting religious topic of this period was the synod that closed its labors in 1648. "It went on," Winthrop writes, "comfortably, and intended only the framing of a confession of faith, &c., and a form of church discipline." This was the celebrated Cambridge Platform, which continued, in the main, to be the rule of the ecclesiastical polity of Massachusetts, until the adoption of the constitution of 1780; "and is still of some influence in the construction of difficult topics."<sup>4</sup>

The ministry of Mr. Allen in this country closed in 1651, when he returned to England. In January, 1657, he was chosen pastor of the Congregational Church in Norwich, where he continued until he died, September 21, 1673, aged sixty-five years. He was greatly beloved, and is characterized as "an able, practical preacher."

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<sup>1</sup> Church Records.

<sup>2</sup> Mass. Archives.

<sup>3</sup> Church Records.

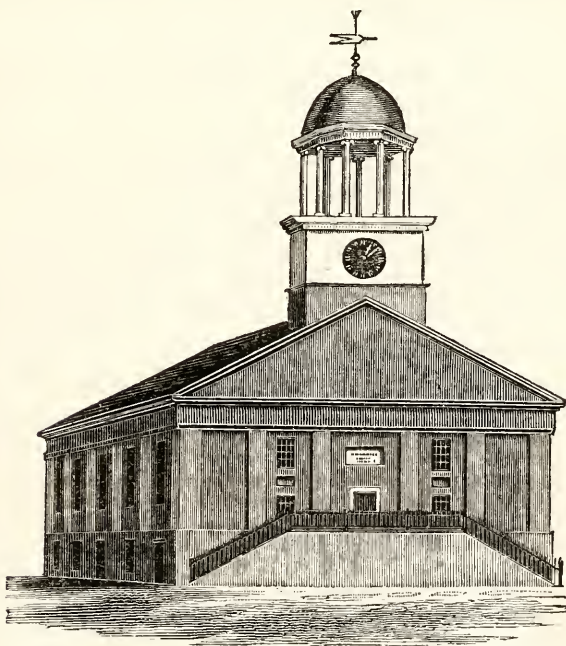
<sup>4</sup> Savage's Winthrop, vol. ii. p. 330.

Mr. Allen was the author of several works, the titles of these are as follows:—*An Invitation to Thirsty Sinners to come to their Saviour: The way of the Spirit in bringing Souls to Christ: The Glory of Christ set forth, with the Necessity of Faith; in several sermons. A Chain of Scripture Chronology, from the Creation to the Death of Christ, in seven periods,—which has been much commended.*<sup>1</sup> A letter written by him, relating to the preaching of the gospel among the Indians, may be found in *Massachusetts Historical Collections*, vol. xxxiv. p. 194.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Non-Conformist Memorial*, vol. iii. p. 11.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. Thomas Allen, (see p. 75,) probably married the widow of John Harvard. They had in this country, 1, Mary, born January 31, 1640: 2, Sarah, born August 8, 1641, buried April 21, 1642; 3, Elizabeth, born and died, 1642: 4, Mercy, born and died, 1646. They had also a



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
BUILT 1833.



## CHAPTER XVII.

Biographical Sketches. — Increase Nowell. — Robert Sedgwick. — Thomas Graves. — Francis Willoughby. — Richard Russell.

INCREASE NOWELL was the most distinguished of those who remained in town on the dispersion of Winthrop's company. He was relative of Alexander Nowell, dean of St. Paul's, in Elizabeth's reign; a Patentee; elected an assistant of the Massachusetts Company in England, October 20, 1629; came over in the *Arbella* with Winthrop; and on the organization of the first church, was chosen ruling elder. But being also an assistant, the question arose whether a magistrate ought to be a ruling elder? It was submitted to the Salem and Plymouth churches, which gave the opinion, "that a ruler in the church ought not to be a ruler in the state at the same time." Mr. Nowell, accordingly, relinquished the office of elder.

He held the office of magistrate until his death. But to write in full his biography would be, in fact, to write a large part of the civil and ecclesiastical history of his time, for his name appears in connection with much of it. He was secretary of the colony many years, and one of the commission for military affairs in 1634. He joined with Endicott, Dudley, and others, in 1649, in the association against wearing long hair.

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son, Thomas. His wife, Anne, was living in 1651, as she, this year, deeded land with him. She died soon after, and Mr. Allen married, for his second wife, the widow of Robert Sedgwick; they had no children.

Harvard had a large property for those days, in this town,—one half of which fell, probably, to his widow. I have met with only one allusion to a sale of land by her, and that in 1638, to Thomas Graves. Thomas Allen was also a large land owner, having, among other property, five hundred acres granted to him, "in regard to Mr. Harvard's gift." Among the sales of property is one, in 1659, of a part of the estate on which "his mansion house" stood. It had an orchard, and was bounded north on "the narrow lane up Mill-hill." The purchaser was Thomas Shephard. In 1676 Gravel-lane is described as bounded on Mr. Shephard's land, and this, it is hence inferred, was Harvard's house, standing in 1697, and owned by Mrs. Shephard. It is the estate on which Washington Hall stands.

Mr. Nowell was one of the chief founders of the town. He was often on important committees, a short time town clerk, and for nineteen years a selectman,—from 1635, with the exception of 1653, to the year of his death. He devoted his life to the public service, and died poor. The situation of his family, just before his death, elicited the following order of October 24, 1655. "It is desired that the deputies of each town commend the condition of Mr. Nowell's family to their several towns in reference to some meet recompense for the said Mr. Nowell's service by way of rate or otherwise, bringing their returns to the next Court of election." This vote, at least, cheered the closing days of this "honored magistrate." He died November 1, 1655. The next year, October 14, 1656, the General Court, remembering Mr. Nowell's "long service to this Commonwealth in the place not only of a magistrate but secretary also, for which he had but little and slender recompense," granted Mrs. Nowell and her son Samuel, two thousand acres of land. The territory now part of Worcester, was once owned by this family.

Increase Nowell was a rigid Puritan, and enjoyed, in an eminent degree, the respect and affection of his contemporaries. One terms him, "one of the men of renown that settled Massachusetts:" another, "honored and upright-hearted:" a third, "eminent for his piety and learning." The long confidence of his townsmen, and the votes of the colony, are solid testimonials of the value of his services. It is to be regretted that his piety was accompanied with a severe temper, and his public virtue with a stern intolerance.

Mr. Nowell married Parnel Coitmore, the daughter of Catharine Coitmore. She survived him; and the town, in 1658, voted that she "should be freed from paying town rates hence forwards." She died March 25, 1687, aged eighty-four.<sup>1</sup>

ROBERT SEDGWICK was one of the most distinguished men of his time. The family is supposed to have sprung from the northern counties of England. Johnson furnishes the earliest notice of

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<sup>1</sup> Increase and Parnel Nowell had eight children, of whom three died in infancy, namely, Increase, Abigail and Eliezur. The others were:—

1, Samuel, born November 12, 1634, graduated at Harvard College in 1653, a preacher, often engaged in the public service, treasurer of the College, and an assistant in 1680. He married widow Mary Usher, who died in this town August 14, 1683. He died in London, September, 1688.

Mr. Sedgwick, writing that he "was nursed up in London's artillery garden," and "was stout and active in all feats of war." He was admitted an inhabitant of this town June 3, 1636; a freeman in 1637, and this year chosen representative, and several times afterwards. He was also selectman, and often engaged in town business. He was, probably, a merchant, and on an occasion of selling his goods too high, was admonished (1639) by the Court to take heed of oppression. He was the captain (1636) of the first "trained band" of this town, the first major (1644) of the Middlesex regiment, and elected major general May 26, 1652. In 1641, '45, and '48, he commanded the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and in 1641 the Castle. In 1645, he had a commission to take care of the fortifications of the town, and to keep it and the harbor "from all hostile and mutinous attempts or insurrections." He was, among other duties, directed to have always in readiness, "a barrel of powder for every six pieces of ordnance, with twelve shot and five pound of match, if any ships in the harbor shall quarrel and shoot one another, whereby the people, or houses may be endangered."

Previous to July 1, 1654, General Sedgwick had visited England, and engaged in the service of Cromwell, as commander of a contemplated expedition against the Dutch at New-York. In a letter to the Protector, of this date, Sedgwick informed him of his arrival here, and of his proceedings; namely, that in fourteen days he had victualled his ships, and in six more was ready with nine

2, Mehitable, born February 2, 1638, married William Hilton September 16, 1659. Their children were, Nowell, born May 4, 1663; Edward, born March 3, 1666; John, baptised May 24, 1668; Richard, born September 13, 1670; and Charles, born April 19, 1673. William Hilton died September 7, 1675, and his widow married, October 29, 1684, deacon John Cutler, who died September 12, 1691. She died, Sept. 1711.

3, Increase, born May 23, 1640, (Boston Records,) — a seaman.

4, Mary, born May 26, 1643, married August 14, 1666 Isaac Winslow, whose father, John, was a brother of Edward, of Plymouth, and whose mother, Mary, was the first female who landed from the Mayflower in 1620. Their children were: — Parnel, born November 14, 1667, married Richard Foster, May 4, 1686; Isaac, born and died in 1670; Mr. Winslow died, August 14, 1670, at Port Royal, Jamaica; his widow married, September 16, 1674, John Long, who died July 20, 1683. Their children were Isaac, born 1675, died 1680; Catharine, married William Welstead May 24, 1694; Samuel died March 18, 1730; and Mary married Simon Bradstreet; Mary Long died about 1729.

5, Alexander, graduated at Harvard in 1664, the author of several Almanacks, and died in 1672.



hundred foot and a company of horse, to act against the enemy, when, June 1, news of peace arrived; and that commissioners, at a meeting in Charlestown, June 17, had determined to employ the force against the French forts in Nova Scotia. Sedgwick sailed, July 4, 1654, from Boston, with a fleet consisting of the *Augustine*, *Church*, *Hope*, and a ketch; arrived at St. Johns, a strong fort, on the 14th; captured it on the 17th; then took Port Royal and another French fort, and sailed for Piscataqua.

Though the General Court questioned General Sedgwick's authority for doing this, yet such vigorous action was so acceptable to Cromwell, that the next year he was appointed to an important service in the West Indies. Jamaica had been captured; and General Sedgwick was sent, with a fleet under his orders, with reinforcements for the army under General Venables. He sailed from Plymouth July 11, 1655; and arrived at Barbadoes, August 27, when he learned that Venables had met with a repulse, losing four hundred men. A few extracts from Sedgwick's letters show the state of his feelings. Writing to Cromwell, September 1, 1655, he says:—

"I must confess, I cannot but bring my own spirit to stand and consider what I may understand of the mind and will of God, and what he speaks in so loud a voice as this. I must conclude this, that God is righteous in his proceedings, to curb and bring low the pride of the sons of men."

The same letter concludes in the following manner:—

"I am resolved to attend my business with as much wisdom and vigor as God shall assist me with. I thank God, my heart in some measure beareth me witness, that it is the glory of God, that I intended in this employment, and I hope he will yet own us. Our condition, I am confident, is often remembered by you in your approaches to Heaven, and I hope will yet be. Religion and God was pretended, and I question not intended, and I know must now be attended, if we prosper. Let your highness be pleased to pardon my boldness and prolixity. I thank God my prayers are for you, that the God of wisdom and grace may yet own you in your so many weighty affairs, that you may be a blessing to your generation, and serviceable to Christ, and to his people.

Sir,

I am willing to be, and wish I  
were,

Your Lordships humble Servant,  
ROBERT SEDGWICK."

General Sedgwick's letters,<sup>1</sup> long, able, and interesting, present

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<sup>1</sup> In Thurloe's State Papers.

a vivid view of the difficulties he had to encounter. "The truth is," he writes the Protector, November 5, 1655, "God is angry, and the plague is begun, and we have none to stand in the gap." "Sir, you cannot conceive us so sad as we are, broken and scattered, God rending us in twain, a senseless hearted people, not affected with his dealing towards us." There was the evil of a divided command. A council for managing the affairs of the island was formed, of which Sedgwick, appointed commissioner by Cromwell, was one, and General Fortesque was president. The latter soon fell a victim to the climate. At this time General Sedgwick made two requests to the Protector : —

"One is, if God spare me life, that your highness would be pleased to permit me to come to England. But I am not very solicitous in that, sometimes thinking that another place will be my portion, before I may hear again from your highness.

"The other petition is : I left behind me a dear and religious wife, who through grace hath much of the fear and knowledge of God in her. I have also five children, to me dear and precious. I would only by this, that your highness would cast one thought towards them ; that whatever hazard or hardship I may go through, yet my relations may not be forgotten. I only expect, what your highness was pleased to promise me, that she may not be troubled in obtaining it in such seasons, as may tend to her comfort."

General Sedgwick renews the latter request, — in relation to his pay, — to Cromwell's secretary, Thurloe, in letters dated November 7, and November 12, 1655; remarking, "the truth is, my heart and spirit are in a confusion, and (I) think sometimes it may finish my few days I have here to be." His presentiment proved true. So far from granting his request to return, the Protector sent him a commission to command the army. "He never enjoyed himself," writes one of his officers, "after he received his commission," "but as was apparent to all men, from that time lost much of freedom and cheerfulness." He died May 24, 1656.

Charlestown has cause to remember the public spirit of General Sedgwick. He took a warm interest in its welfare ; and either as selectman, representative, or a member of an important committee, was constantly in its service. He was an enterprising merchant, as we find him building wharves on the shore east of the old ferryways, carrying on a brewing establishment, building the old Tide Mills, and interested in the Iron Works at Lynn. He was zealous in disciplining his company, — freely spending time and money,

Johnson says, for this purpose. The train band manifested their feelings towards him by the grant, somewhat irregularly, of a piece of land, which the town "to gratify the major" confirmed. His residence was in the market-place, now the square, near the site of the Bunker Hill Bank.

Robert Sedgwick was a representative of the liberal Puritans of early New-England. Religion was in all his thoughts, and yet he openly opposed the prevailing intolerance. His regard for education is seen in his gifts to the College. He was "a very brave, zealous and pious man,"<sup>1</sup> "beloved and esteemed by all."<sup>2</sup>

THOMAS GRAVES, the ancestor of the distinguished family of this name, was born June 6, 1605, in Ratcliff, England, and baptised June 16, at Stepney.<sup>3</sup> In 1629 he is mentioned by Higginson in terms of commendation,<sup>4</sup> and was mate of the Talbot,—the year that the engineer of the same name came over. In 1630, he was made freeman; in 1632 was master of the Whale; in 1633, of the Elizabeth Bonadventure; in 1635, of the James;<sup>5</sup> in 1643, of the Trial, the first ship built in Boston, and which had been commanded by Thomas Coitmore. Mr. Graves continued to follow the sea. During the protectorship of Oliver Cromwell, and while on a mercantile voyage, he met a Dutch privateer in the English Channel; and though in a merchantman, he engaged with her, and captured her. As a reward for his bravery, the owners of the vessel presented him with a silver cup; and Cromwell conferred on him the command of a ship of war.<sup>6</sup> In the inventory of his

<sup>1</sup> Carlyle.

<sup>2</sup> Aylesbury, his secretary, June 25, 1656, in Thurloe, vol. iv. p. 604. "He was truly a religious man, and of the most innocent conversation I ever accompanied."

General Sedgwick names five children living in the year of his death. Of these,—1, Samuel, baptised 1639, was in 1668 a woolen draper of London. 2, Hannah, baptised 1641. 3, William, married Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Samuel Stone, first minister of Hartford, Connecticut, and died in 1674. He had a son Samuel from whom the distinguished family of the Sedgwicks is descended. 4, Robert, member of artillery in 1674, whose widow died in 1683. 5, I know nothing of the fifth child.

<sup>3</sup> MSS. in possession of his descendants. I have been informed that the date of his birth and baptism may be relied on; the MSS. make the engineer and admiral identical.—See p. 26.

<sup>4</sup> Hutchinson's Coll., p. 48.

<sup>5</sup> Winthrop's Hist., vol. i. pp. 77. 161. He came over "every year for these seven years."

<sup>6</sup> MSS. Papers.

estate he is called "Rear-Admiral;" he must have received this distinction, also, from the Protector.

The name of Thomas Graves<sup>1</sup> is not found on the Town Records until 1638; and of course, he had no share in any divisions of land previous to this time. In 1639, with his wife Catharine, he was admitted to the church of this town; and after this date, until his death, his name is constantly found on committees, and in divisions of land: and the names of his children, among the list of baptisms in the Church Records. He died July 31, 1653. Winthrop commends him as "an able and godly man." His will contains his autograph. The signature of the engineer is also affixed to the contract (see p. 16) he made with the company in 1629. Fac-similes of the two,—

THE ADMIRAL,

THE ENGINEER,

indicate the hand-writing of two individuals. The admiral was undoubtedly the ancestor of the family of this name in this town.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The compiler of the account of the settlement of the town appears not to have known the whole name of the engineer (see p. 20) but left a space for the name of "Thomas." He always writes out the name of the admiral in full; and after 1640, with the "Mr." before it. In 1633 the General Court (see p. 52) ordered the neck of land "where Mr. Graves dwelleth" to belong to Newtown,—since Cambridge. This neck was East Cambridge; and it is probable that the "Mr. Graves" was the engineer.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Graves married Catharine Coitmore, the daughter of widow Coitmore, noticed on page 86. He names in his will, sons John, Thomas, Nathaniel and Joseph: and daughters, Rebecca, Elizabeth and Susanna. Of these:

1, John, probably lived in England, as a house at Ham, near London, is bequeathed to him.

2, Thomas, born in 1638 at this town, married May 16, 1677, Elizabeth the widow of Dr. John Chickering, who died July 22, 1679. He then

FRANCIS WILLOUGHBY, an eminent citizen, was the son of Colonel William Willoughby and his wife Elizabeth, of Portsmouth, county of Hampshire, England. He was admitted an inhabitant of this town, August 22, 1638; and from 1640 to the time of his death, was almost constantly engaged in the public service. He was first chosen selectman in 1640, and served seven years on this board; was representative 1649 and '50; elected an assistant in 1650, '51, '54, and was Deputy Governor from 1665 to the day of his death. He was, also, entrusted with an agency in England, as appears from the vote of the Court, October 15, 1669, granting him one thousand acres of land:—

“The Court considering that our honored Deputy Governor, Francis Willoughby, Esq. hath yet had no acknowledgment of the country's respect to him by grant of lands or otherwise, as has been shown to some others that have not done that public service which he hath done for this place as well in England as here, do therefore grant him one thousand acres of land to be laid out in any place that may not prejudice a plantation.”<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Willoughby was a merchant, and a successful one. He built wharves above and below the old Ferry-ways, where he owned a large property. He had a part of this granted to him in 1649, when a road was laid out to the landing “so that boats might go to low water mark;” he “agreeing to build a wharf and stairs for passengers and maintain them.” In 1663 he resigned this land adjoining the ferry. He built (1641) a ship directly on the Warren Bridge avenue. He lived near the square, between Harvard-street and Bow-street, on the estate on which the house

married, May 15, 1682, Sarah, the widow of Dr. Samuel Alcock. Their children were: Thomas, Catharine, John, Nathaniel, Susanna, Joseph. Hon. Thomas Graves, distinguished as a physician and judge, died May 30, 1697. His widow married Colonel John Phillips of this town and died March 1, 1731, aged eighty-seven.

3, Nathaniel, baptised 1639, a mariner, married August 24, 1664, Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Russell. Their children were Nathaniel, Maud and Elizabeth. He died February 12, 1679.

4, Joseph, born April 13, 1645, married, Jan. 15, 1666, Elizabeth Maynard, and had, Samuel, born 1667, Richard, born 1672, John, born 1674. He married a second time—Mary, and had Mary, Ebenezer and perhaps others.

5, Susanna, born July 8, 1643, married Zechariah Symmes (minister of Bradford) November 18, 1669. Their children were, Susanna, Sarah, Zechariah, Catharine, Thomas, William and Rebecca. Susanna died July 23, 1681: her husband Zechariah, March 22, 1718.

6, Of Rebecca, I know nothing.

<sup>1</sup> Savage's Winthrop, vol. ii. p. 321.



stands that was, a few years since, occupied by Governor Everett. He died April 4, 1671.

Hutchinson<sup>1</sup> has this short, but honorable characteristic of him : "He was a great opposer of the persecutions against the Baptists." He is mentioned, in warm terms of affection, by his contemporaries. Two significant memorials<sup>2</sup> of him exist. One is a letter dated May 28, 1670, when he was confined to his house, and addressed to his associates in the government. After dwelling on the rumors that came to him of disunion in the councils, he says : —

"I do earnestly beseech you that you study and contrive some way before you break up the Court, to adjourn with the demonstration of onenes and affection, that it may appear you all scope at the good of the country. And that you will endeavor to have as good thoughts one of another as possibly you can ; retaining the interest of the name of God among us : Let it not be published to the world that the Government of New-England is broken, and that your animosities are such that it is impossible for you to agree in any thing that may tend to the saving the whole. Desiring a good construction may be put upon my broken hints ; and that you will believe that my scope is publick interest : Praying and beseeching the Lord to be with you in your counsell and determinations, yt his name may be glorified in all your transactions, with my service heartily endorsed to your interest." <sup>3</sup>

The other memorial is the fragment of a speech made in 1666, on one of the most interesting events in the history of New-England. It was delivered in the controversy (which began in 1662) connected with the preservation of the Charter Privileges ; and was against sanctioning an appeal to the king, or his commissioners. A royal mandate (1666) summoned the General Court to send persons to England, to answer the complaints made against the colony ; the Court refused to comply with the order. The following is a part of the debate in the council :

"Bradstreet. I grant legal process in a course of law reaches us not in an ordinary course, yet I think his prerogative gives him power to command our appearance, which before God and men we are to obey."

"Dudley. The king's commands pass any where ; Ireland, Calais, &c.,

<sup>1</sup> Hist. Mass., vol. i. p. 246.

<sup>2</sup> Governor Willoughby left MSS. which (see p. 4) were in the hands of Prince. There is a journal, supposed to have been written by him, now in the archives of the Antiquarian Society of Worcester. It is in a difficult cypher, which I have, in vain, tried to read. Rev. W. I. Buddington says of it : "It is entitled 'A Continuation of my Daily Observation,' and comprises a period of time from 1. 9 mo. 1650, to 28. 10 mo. 1651. It was certainly written in Charlestown, for on the first page is a brief account, not written in cypher, of a fire, which consumed eleven or twelve houses, 21. 9. 1650, p. 208."

<sup>3</sup> Mass. Archives, p. 203.

although ordinary process from judges and officers pass not. No doubt but you may have a trial at law, when you come in England, if you desire it, and you may insist upon it and claim it."

"Willoughby. Whether God doth not call us to argue one way, as well as another; whether Calais, Dunkirk,—have not been governed by commission, and if this be allowed, how easily may the king in one year undo all that he hath done: and we must as well consider God's displeasure as the king's, the interest of ourselves and God's things, as his majesties prerogative; for our liberties are of concernment, and to be regarded as to the preservation; for if the king may send for me now, and another to-morrow, we are a miserable people."<sup>1</sup>

It is to such far-sighted men as Willoughby, that New-England owes its liberties. From this period,—and the decision of this question,—Judge Minot<sup>2</sup> dates the origin of the controversy between the patriots and prerogative men, scarcely intermitted, and never ended until the separation of the colonies from the mother country.

Winthrop relates an incident that happened in London. Dr. Child, who had been harshly treated by the General Court, met Mr. Willoughby at the Exchange; and in conversation about New-England, "railed against the people, saying they were a company of rogues and knaves." Mr. Willoughby replied, "that he who spake so, &c., was a knave;" whereupon the Doctor gave him a box on the ear. Mr. Willoughby arrested his assailant; who, through friends, made atonement. Dr. Child was ordered to "give five pounds to the poor of New-England (for Mr. Willoughby would have nothing of him) and to give Mr. Willoughby open satisfaction in the full Exchange;" and to promise in writing that he never would speak evil of New-England again, nor cause the country trouble.<sup>3</sup>

Governor Willoughby left a large estate,—valued at £4050. 5. 4. of which £600 were in money and plate. He gave three hundred acres of land for the school of this town; and five pounds to Thomas, son of the celebrated Ezekial Cheever, schoolmaster, "provided he be brought up to learning in the College." He names this institution as one for which he had great affection, and felt desirous for its prosperity; "Having," he says, "made it my work to solicit the country in general, and particular persons to

<sup>1</sup> This interesting debate is in Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. xxviii. pp. 99, 100.

<sup>2</sup> Minot's Hist. Mass., vol. i. p. 51.

<sup>3</sup> Winthrop, vol. ii. p. 322.

take care thereof, in order to the advantage of posterity." He gave the military company of this town twenty pounds, to furnish "poor men on days of exercise" with arms. His will has this paragraph respecting funerals: "whereas, in funeral solemnities there is generally a great expense to little profit or advantage to particular persons: I do prohibit the giving any scarfs or ribbons to any persons except magistrates, and those who officiate at my funeral." <sup>1</sup>

RICHARD RUSSELL, the ancestor of a distinguished family in this country, was of a family no less celebrated in England. He came from Hereford, in Herefordshire, and was admitted an inhabitant of this town in 1640. In 1642 he was elected a selectman, and from this year until his death was constantly engaged in the public service. His name stands at the head of the board of selectmen seventeen years, and he was on it twenty-six years. He was elected representative first in 1646, and for ten years afterwards; was an assistant sixteen years from 1659 to 1676; a speaker of the House of Deputies in 1648, '50, '54, '55 and '58; and for twenty years treasurer of the colony.

Though thus engaged in public duties, he found time to embark, largely for those days, in commerce. He was deeply interested in navigation and real estate. He built, in this town, wharves and store-houses; purchased one quarter of the Pemaquid Patent; and in 1656, he bought of Edward Collins the greater part of what, at that date, was Medford. He accumulated a handsome fortune.

<sup>1</sup> Francis Willoughby had certainly two wives, perhaps three, for I find in Church Records, Mary; in Boston Records, Sarah; and on the Town Records, Margaret, wives of Francis. He had children, some of whom died young. Of the others,

1, Jonathan, married Grizzel ———, and had Mary, born 1664. He was living in 1671.

2, Nehemiah, born June 8, 1644, was a respected citizen and merchant of Salem; married Abigail Bartholomew, January 2, 1672, who died September 3, 1702. He died November 6, 1702, leaving children, Francis, Nehemiah, Abigail and Sarah. (Felt's Salem, p. 336.)

3, William died of small pox in 1678.

4, Sarah, baptised in 1611, who is named in 1662, as the "only daughter of Francis. She may have married ——— Kempfield, or Campfield.

By his last wife, Margaret, (whom he probably married in England, as he speaks of her as being a stranger in the country) Governor Willoughby had, 1, Francis; 2, Nathaniel, died 1663; 3, Susanna, born Aug. 19, 1664.

Governor Willoughby's widow, Margaret, married Captain Lawrence Hammond, February 8, 1675, and died February 2, 1683.

Richard Russell<sup>1</sup> died May 14, 1676,—leaving in his will additional proof of the interest he felt in the town, the church and the colony. To the church, “with whom he had been in sweet christian fellowship for many years,” he gave one hundred pounds; and also fifty pounds towards a house for the use of the ministry, provided it was built within two years. To the town he gave two hundred pounds to constitute a fund for the poor,—the annual proceeds of which (with additions) are, to this day, distributed by the selectmen and deacons. To Harvard College he gave one hundred pounds. This item of the will is in the following words:

“To Harvard College in Cambridge I doe give and bequeath £100, and my will is yt it shall be improved for the purchase of some real estate or otherwise so as to bring in an annual revenue and the principal not wasted; and ye said annual revenue shall be allowed to two poor students yt may need the same for their furtherance in good literature.”

Mr. Russell opposed the sanguinary edicts against the Quakers, and was ever ready to afford substantial aid to the colony. His son James Russell, in a letter to the General Court regarding a settlement of the accounts of the late treasurer, dated May 24, 1676, says:—

“I hope you will please to take care for the reimbursing his estate for what he has expended in the countries service in this war and otherwise, and those personal engagements he has passed for the countries use and benefit, that so his children may not suffer for his love to the country. Thus, not doubting but you will in some measure consider the case, and take care not to injure or oppress the widow and fatherless, whose loss is so great already, and that there may be ordered a speedy settling of accounts, I am &c.”

1 Richard Russell married Maud ———. Their children were:—

1, James, born, Oct. 4, 1640, of whom a notice will be subsequently given.

2, Daniel, who graduated at Harvard in 1669. He was a preacher of the Gospel; invited to settle at Saybrook in Connecticut, and also at Charlestown. He accepted the latter invitation; was about to be ordained, when he died of small pox January 4, 1678,—leaving a widow, who was of Connecticut, and a daughter who married ——— Hubbard.

3, Catharine, who married, November 29, 1654, William Roswell, a merchant of Connecticut, and had children.

4, Elizabeth, who married August 29, 1664, Nathaniel Graves, a sea captain, (see page 141,) and on his death in 1679, she married Captain John Herbert of Reading, whom she survived. She died probably in 1713.

Richard Russell's wife Maud died in 1652; and he married widow Mary Chester of Weathersfield, Connecticut. They had no children. She had by her first husband; 1, son John; 2, Stephen; 3, Mercy, who died in this town in 1669; 4, Dorcas, married Samuel Whitney of Billerica; 5, Prudence, married Captain Thomas Russell of this town, had children Thomas, Mary and Prudence. She died October 21, 1678; he died October 20, 1666. 6, Eunice, married February 25, 1673, Captain Richard Sprague, son of Ralph, and died May 27, 1676.

The epitaph on his monument is not wholly legible ; it is probable that the following is but an imperfect copy of it :

“ Here lies interred the body of Richard Russell, esq. who served his country as treasurer, more than a treble apprenticeship, and as magistrate, sixteen years, who departed this life, the 14th of May, 1676, being the 65th year of his age.

A saint, a husband, a faithful brother,  
A friend scarce parallell'd by any other ;  
A saint, that walked high in either way  
Of godliness and honesty, all say ;  
A husband rare to both his darling wives,  
To her deceased, to her who him survives ;  
A father politick, faithful, and kind  
Unto our state as treasurership we find ;  
Of fathers good and best to own to those  
On him a fathership law did impose.  
Moses brother kind good Aaron lov'd :  
On whom love showers how full of truth improv'd ;  
A friend to needy poor whom he refresh'd,  
The poor may well lament the friend suppress'd.  
In time of war he was remov'd in peace,  
From sin and woes to glory, by his decease.

N. B. The ravages of time and an accident during the siege of Boston, in 1775, having destroyed the monument erected at the decease of Mr. Russell, this, being a true copy of the original, was replaced by his relations, A. D. 1787, in testimony of their regard to his memory.<sup>1</sup>

The Russell family are identified with the history of this town. And direct descendants of the treasurer exhibited, for five generations, the same nobility of character, and shared, even more largely, of public honors. Judge James Russell, who died in 1798, wrote in the following strain to his son, Hon. Thomas Russell, an eminent merchant of his day : —

“ Our family has great reason to bless God that the reputation of it has been preserved. You are the fifth generation. In the year 1646, Richard Russell entered into public life. From that time to the present, I may say, the family have had every office of profit and honor which the people could give them, in the town of Charlestown, in the county of Middlesex and the State of Massachusetts ; and I do not find that there was any one left out of office for misbehaviour. Let our hearts be filled with gratitude to Him who has thus distinguished us, — never to be obliterated from any branch of the family ; and let us evidence this gratitude to our Maker by making a good improvement of our talents.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This is printed in Hist. Soc. Col., vol. ii. p. 179, and in Alden's Epitaphs. I copy from the stone.      <sup>2</sup> MSS. Com. by Dr. Lowell.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

1650 to 1670. — Penny Ferry. — Grants of Land. — Trees. — Mansfield Petition. — Malden Debts. — By-law respecting Strangers. — The Poor. — Burying Hill. — Town House. — Cow Commons. — Division of Land in 1658. — Names of the Inhabitants. — Josselyn's Visits to the Town. — Town Buckets. — Letter of Charles II. — Petition of Middlesex Artillery Company. — Grant to Charlestown. — Ezekiel Cheever's Petition. — Selectmen's Order respecting Boys. — Petition of Freemen. — Fine of John Davis. — Seating the People and Church Rates.

1651. PENNY FERRY was granted for a year to Phillip Knight, who appears to have had the income of it for taking care of it; he agreeing "to attend the ferry carefully, and not to neglect it, that there be no just complaint."

At a "full meeting" of the citizens, it was agreed to give Walter Edmonds, "eighty pounds for his house, housing and ground to it, upon the hill side with the young trees in the garden: also a cows common and a half. It to be paid in money, or wheat, rye, barley and peaze, by the first of the ninth month, 1652."

1652. The town made Increase Nowell the grant of "all that part of lands which Squa Sachem gave formerly unto him, the which he had given to the town, which lies on the south side of his lot next Woburn." This tract of land was sold in 1656 by Mr. Nowell's heirs to Thomas Broughton, who sold it in 1659 to Richard Gardner. The descendants of the latter have lived on it to the present day. It is known as "Gardner's Row."

The town also confirmed a grant made to Robert Sedgwick. The latter record commences: — "whereas it was by the trained band of this town granted to Major Robert Sedgwick (though unknown to the selectmen) yet they, to gratify the said major, gave consent to the said grant," — which was a piece of land near the river, and adjoining his wharf, near the Town Dock.

1653. The following order was passed by the selectmen in relation to cutting trees on the common grounds of the town: —

"It was ordered that no inhabitant of this town, nor none of any other town, shall under any pretence whatsoever, fell or cut down any trees

upon the common without the neck, or the common beyond Mistick farm, within Charlestown bounds, or the common on Mistick side belonging to Charlestown, without first acquainting the selectmen therewith, upon the forfeit of what the selectmen shall see meet, who are to judge according as they are to conceive of the offence."

1654. In 1652, the General Court took the important step of establishing a mint; and John Hull and Robert Sanderson were mint masters. In 1654, John Mansfield, of this town, petitioned that he might help "to coin and melt and fine silver with Mr. Hull and Goodman Saunders in the country-house;" and added, "for I served eleven years and one half prentice to the same arts, and am a freeman of London, and am also sworn to be true to the country, as I hope I shall." A few years later, (1668) he again petitioned the Court, stating "his extremity of poverty;" when the Court ordered the town to "repair his house" or "to build him a new one," and that the house shall be obligated to pay the expenses "after the death of Mansfield and wife."

This year there is the following record:—

"That which our Brethren of Malden are to allow their proportion of, to this Town for Debts owing when they went from us: viz,

Owing to the Captain of the Castle when our brethren went away to 1649,	22: 2: 11
To Mr. Long for diet,	5: 6: 4
To Mr. Mellows,	15: 0: 0
To Widow Rand,	10: 8: 0
To Mr. Nowell for a man at Castle,	2: 10: 0
To Lawrence Dowse,	6: 0: 0
To Goodman Tedd,	6: 4: 0
To Foxes and Wolves,	9: 0: 0
To Mr. Norton for charge about the Castle,	6: 0: 0
To a petition about Meadford,	0: 10: 0
To our Elders Allowances,	4: 0: 0
To The Training Place,	20: 0: 0
To Captain Davenport from the 9th month 1648 } to the fifth month 1650 }	31: 4: 0

By-laws in relation to entertaining strangers, were often renewed and ordered to be posted up. It was found difficult to enforce them. The following will serve as a specimen of these laws at this period:—

"Whereas it is found by dayly experience that Towns are brought under great burthen and charge by their inhabitants receiving and entertaining of strangers into their Houses and families without the knowledge or consent of the select men;

"And whereas it may bee of very great inconveniency and extreamo charge for the future to this towne;

"It is therefore ordered by the Townsmen this 24th day of the 11th month 1653 that no inhabitant of this town called Charltowne shall sell, or let, or dispose of, any Hous lott, or Hous in the sayd Towne to any stranger whosoever to inhabit amongst us without the knowledg and consent of the sayd selectmen :

"Alsoe it is ordered that no Inhabitant of this towne shall receive any inmates ould or yonge intoo their sayd Houses to abyde with them above a weeks tyme, without approbation from the selectmen aforesaid, or security from the sayd Person or Persons so receiving any inmates to bear the Town harmesse, and to save it from all charge and damage that may come by such persons so residing with them ; and if any person of this towne notwithstanding this order shall be delinquent, then every such person for the first offence to forfeit ten shillings, and for every week after ten shillings more so long as they shall be so defective. JOHN GREENE."

This year there were several persons fined at the Quarter Court, holden alternately at this town and Cambridge, for being absent from the public ordinances on the Lord's days. One was presented for being absent twenty weeks, but he satisfied the Court for six of the Sabbaths, and was let off with a fine of three pounds ten shillings, or five shillings a Sabbath. Another was fined five pounds for twenty Sabbaths. The Court, March 18, imposed the following fine : —

"Rowland Leyhorne's wife, being presented to this court by the Grand Jury, for making disturbance on the Lords day, in the public assembly at Malden, and washing clothes on the Lord's day, she freely acknowledged and confessed her sin and fault in the court, and her husband Rowland Leyhorne consented to allow the four witnesses 2d per diem."

The following record is a specimen of other punishments of the time ; which appear to have been inflicted by the constables, sometimes in this town and sometimes in Cambridge, but generally on "Lecture days : " —

"John Baker and Susan Martin, being convicted before this court for fornication by them committed together, are sentenced by this court to be each of them severely whipt with twelve stripes a piece upon their naked bodies at Cambridge the next lecture day, before the public concourse of people, and are also enjoined to marry together."

1655. The provision made for the poor has been already stated (p. 98.) This year the records contain notices of Hannah Martin, "the lame girl," and Roger Morgan, "the blinde man," who were maintained by the town : for keeping the former, five pounds a year was paid. The following order relates to the latter : —

"Agreed with John Pentecost that he is to have and keep Roger in his house this year ensuing. He is to find and allow him meat, drink, lodgings, washing, and the like necessities, for which the town is to give John Pentecost four shillings per week, and all that Roger earns by his work is to be brought in by account, and to go towards the payment of

the 4s. a week, only what is laid out for clothes for the year is to be deducted out of his work."

Upon the request of the inhabitants, Richard Russell, Ralph Mousall and Thomas Lynde, were appointed by the General Court to act as commissioners to "end small causes" in town according to law.

1656. The town granted the common marsh before the burying-hill to Solomon Phipps and Lawrence Douse, "in consideration of twelve pounds in good merchantable wheat and pease of each a like quantity:" the hill "remaining free and entire for the town's use, only liberty is granted them to feed on the burying-hill, provided no inconvenience accrue to the hill,—the Broadway going up to the hill being fully reserved to the town's use." They were to make and maintain the gate of that way "to the hill, also the lime-kilns are excepted, and a free way to them." The "right of herbage" was retained by individuals until it was purchased by the town in 1807, of the late Jacob Foster for four hundred dollars.

1657. A number of citizens subscribed twenty-nine pounds ten shillings toward building a "house," probably a town-house, on the Town Hill. This induced the town to pass the following vote:—

"At a generall town meeting of all the Inhabitants of Charletowne the second day of the eleaventh mo: 1656. It was agreed unanimously by the generall Townsmen, that a Hous should bee made and sett up upon the Windmill Hill: And the bell sufficiently hanged thereon; and a Sun-dial there; And to be done by a generall rate speedily to be gathered of the inhabitants, who are to pay each his proportion in good and merchantable Wheat at four shillings a bushell, and Barlee at four shillings a bushell, and Peas at three shillings and sixpence a bushell. The cost and charge off all not to exceed fifty pounds at the moste."

A record was made of the number of cow commons each individual had in the stinted pasture, lying between "the neck of land, Menotomies River, and the farms of Medford and Mr. Winthrop." The following is the form of this record:—

"Confirmed and entered for Thomas Lynde Senior—nineteen cow commons.

I say to him and his heirs forever.

JOHN GREENE, Recorder.

1658. The early action of the town, in relation to dividing the land, has been related.<sup>1</sup> The details of an important division concluded this year, will show the manner of proceeding at a later

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<sup>1</sup> See chap. viii.

date; and also furnish the names, probably, of all the male inhabitants of the town in 1658.

When Malden was set off in 1649, Charlestown retained a large quantity of land on Mistick side, lying between Malden and Medford Farm. The town voted to divide a part of this land, and a large committee was raised to determine upon the principles upon which it should be done. This committee reported,<sup>1</sup> February 13, 1657, as follows:—

“The returne made by those brethren that were deputed by the Inhabitants of Charletowne for the propounding of a way for the deviding this Towns Land on Mistik syde into commonage; as alsoe the dividing of the wood and tymber that each inhabitant may have his proportion. After some debate spent, and tyme in the consideration hereoff, all the committees unanimously concurring therein, doe present this as their advice unto the sayd town.

“Imprimis: That every head rated in the cuntry rate be vallewed at twenty pounds.

“2, That all women, children, and servants that are not rated in the cuntry rate in regard of their heads, that every two of them be vallewed at the like proportion, that is to say at twenty pounds.

“3, That every £100 estate brought in to be rated to defraye cuntry charges, then that to have the like proportion, that is to say, five tymes as much as he that is only ratable for his head, and ten tymes soe much as where there is onely women and children; that is to say, ten of them to \$100 estate; and soe where there is not £100 rated yet what part of a hundred Pounds that is rated, then that to have its proportion as aforesayd, and soe where there is but one woman, childe, or servant they to have their proportion as being halfe heads.

“4, Ffor the devision of the wood and tymber, we conceave the whole to be devided into ten equall parts, and the devisions to runn from Mistick bounds to Reading bounds the longest way.

“5, That the whole according unto the proportions abovesayd to be cast up as supposing them a thousand parts, that then every hundred of these to be comprised under each equall part of the ten parts, the first devision to be made by survayours chosen out by the whole towne, the latter to be made by those whose lot shall fall to be together in any one of the tenn parts.

“6, That because some inhabitants in this towne are ratable, and yet not rated by means of bearing some publick office; and being freed by court order; as these alsoe that are troopers, and soe exempted for their heads in poynt of cuntry rates, as alsoe some by means of poverty; yet all these to have their proportion in this devision, they that have estates, for them to have a proportion accordingly; And those that have no estates, yett those of years to be vallewed at twenty pounds. And those that are women and children and servants that they be vallewed as aforesayed, that is twoo to twenty pounds.

THOMAS BRATTLE, in the behalf of the rest.

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<sup>1</sup> This report and the list of names is copied from the original in vol. ii. of the Town Records. According to the principles of the division, the quantity of each individual indicates, nearly, his relative circumstances, as to property. It is, therefore, in this respect, not unlike a tax list of to-day.



The town voted to accept this report, to add two to the committee, and to authorize the division to be made on these principles. Another long agreement was concluded March 1, 1658. This provides, that in case any person did not remain in town one year, he should lose his share "both of wood and commons:" that none should sell their shares but to an inhabitant of the town, upon the forfeiture of twelve-pence per load of wood, and the whole of the commons: that each proprietor should pay for laying out his lot. The other provisions relate to localities. Then the following entry was made in the Town Records.

"The returne of the committee apoynted by the Inhabitants of Charltowne, for the division of the wood and commons on Mistick syde, with the inhabitants their assent to the articles above mentioned; Accepted, by drawing each his lott the day and year above written: And is as followeth;—

	Wood in Acres.	Com- mons.		Wood in Acres.	Com- mons.
Edward Carrinton, . . .	52	9	John Richbell, . . .	24	4
Christopher Goodwine, . .	18	3	Lawrence Dous, . . .	26	4½
Thomas Alice Rand, . . .	34	6	Monsieur Belville, . .	17	3
Richard Sprague, . . .	86	15	John George, . . .	11	2
Edward Brazier, . . .	12	2	John Baxter, . . .	7	1
Jacob Greene, . . .	52	9	Thomas Brigden, Senior, .	18	3
Samuel Beadle, . . .	18	3	Thomas Osborne, . . .	18	3
George Heypbourn, . . .	11	2	Widow Goble's house, . .	3	1
John Trumble, . . .	54	9½	John Cloys, . . .	24	4
Mihell Long, . . .	23	4	John White, . . .	26	4½
Ten Families, . . .	340	62½	Ten Families, . . .	174	30
John Clough, . . .	8	1½	Robert Cutler, . . .	56	9½
Josiah Wood, . . .	8	1½	John Roper, . . .	20	3½
John Palmer, . . .	12	2	Thomas Carter, . . .	26	4½
Sarah Sallee's hous, . .	4	1	John Fosdicke, . . .	14	2½
William Bullard, . . .	19	3	T. G. Drinker's Hous, . .	5	1
William Clough, . . .	16	3	Capt. Lusher's House, . .	4	1
Mr. Winthrop's Farme, . .	46	8	Faint: winds, . . .	10	2
Edward Wilson, . . .	9	1½	Robert Long, . . .	60	10½
John Funnell, . . .	33	5½	James Broune, . . .	29	5
Nathaniell Blancheer, . .	12	2	Barnaby Davis, . . .	27	4½
Ten Families, . . .	167	29	Ten Families, . . .	251	44
John Mirick, . . .	17	3	Michell, . . .	00	0
Thomas Lynde, . . .	66	11½	Benjamin Wilson, . . .	11	2
John Withman, . . .	10	2	Ould Mr. Rich'd Browne . .	15	2
William Morris, . . .	12	2	Phinias Pratt, . . .	14	2½
John Long, . . .	31	5	Thomas Wilder, . . .	34	6
John Patefield, . . .	19	3	Thomas Peirce, . . .	24	4½
Randolph Nichols, . . .	62	11	Edward Burt, . . .	18	3
Robert Chalkley, . . .	28	4½	George Hutchison, . . .	27	4½
William Jones, Mason, . .	15	2½	William Crouch, . . .	13	2
Josuah Tydd, . . .	25	4½	William Roswell, . . .	16	2½
Ten Families, . . .	285	49	Ten Families, . . .	177	30

	Wood in Acres.	Com- mons.		Wood in Acres.	Com- mons.
Nicholas Shapley, .	28	4½	Thomas Hett, .	28	5
Elias Roe, .	16	3	Samuell Adams, .	54	9
Seth Switzer, .	23	4	Mrs. Trarice, .	9	1½
Thomas Sheppy, .	19	3	Thomas Kimball, .	29	5
William Dade, .	44	7	Henry Cookery, .	9	1½
Capt. John Allen, .	95	17			
Mrs. Nowell and farme,	48	8	Ten Families,	250	4½
Mr. Richard Russell,	91	16			
Isaak Cole, .	10	2	John Mousall, .	19	3
Mathew Price, .	28	5	Widow Frothingham,	35	6
			Gardy James, .	7	1
Ten Families	402	69½	John March, .	25	4½
			Mikell Smith, .	14	2½
John Johnson, .	14	2½	Natha: Smith's hous,	4	1
William Hilton, .	37	6½	James Heyden, .	19	3
Widow Nash, .	3	1	Leift. Wheelers Farme,	7	1½
Charlestowne Mill, .	57	10	Hadloks Hous, .	4	1
Daniel Edmonds, .	26	4½	John Tucky, .	5	1
William Bachelor, .	18	3			
Roger Spencer, .	37	6½	Ten Families, .	138	4½
Thomas Starr, .	26	4½			
Thomas Adams, .	10	1	Mr. Willoughbys state,	23	4
Samuell Carter, .	45	8	Samuel Ward, .	34	6
			William Baker, .	22	3½
Ten Families,	273	48	John Call, .	10	2
			Mrs. Graves, .	50	9
Mrs. Sedgwick, ali state	28	5	John Phillips, .	15	2½
Mr. Zachary Syms,	57	10	John Knight, .	18	3
Marke Kings, .	19	3	Old Pritchard, .	11	2
Mrs. Kempthorne, .	10	1½	Widow Stubbs, .	5	1
John Mansfeild, .	5	1	Thomas Mousall, .	32	5½
Peeter Nash, .	8	1½			
Widow Cole, .	5	1	Ten Families, .	220	38½
Josuah Edmonds, .	37	6½			
Widow Cartar, .	13	4	George Buncker, .	52	9
Sollomon Phips, .	51	9	Matthew Griffin, .	14	2½
			Widow Amy Stowers,	12	2
Ten Families, .	233	40½	Henry Salter, .	7	1
			William Johnson, .	27	4½
Widow Streeters Hous,	4	1	Richard Kettle, .	26	4½
William Bicknor, .	13	2	Thomas Brigden, Junior,	16	3
Giles Fiffeild, .	15	2½	Sargt Cutters hous, .	10	1½
John Burrage, .	25	4½	Faithfull Rous, .	32	5½
Captain Francis Norton,	89	15½	John Scott, .	19	3
Mr. Nicholas Davison					
and farme .	81	15	Ten Families, .	215	36½
Edward Johnson, .	22	4			
Henery Harbert, .	39	6½	James Cary, .	19	3½
John Blancheer, .	37	6	Tho. Welsh, .	30	5
John Lawrence, .	14	2½	Mr. Thomas Shepheard,	42	7½
			Richard Templar, .	17	3
Ten Families, .	339	59½	James Peckar, .	12	2
			John Drinker, .	19	3
William Goose, .	5	1	Thomas Gould, .	54	9½
Phillips' Estate, .	7	1½	Robert Leach, .	17	3
William Stitson, .	54	9½	Samuell Blancheer, .	14	2½
George Blancheer, .	26	4½	Benjamin Switzer, .	20	2
William Foster, .	29	5			
			Ten Families,	234	41



that Charlestown had been taken by the 'Turks. He gives the rumor as follows : —

“ June 20. That 18 Turksmen of war the 24 of Jan'y 1659–60 landed at a Town, called Kingsword (alluding to Charlestown) three miles from Boston, Killed 40, took Mr. Sims minister prisoner, wounded him, killed his wife and three of his little children, carried him away with 57 more, burnt the Town, carried them to Argier, their loss amounting to 12000 pound — the Turk demanding 8000 pound ransom to be paid within seven months.”

Josselyn visited Charlestown, and mentions, in 1638, calling at Mr. Long's ordinary, and finding on the back side of it a rattlesnake, a yard and a half long, which he minutely describes. On his second visit (1663), he gave a brief description of the town :—

“ The passage from Boston to Charlestown is by a ferry worth forty or fifty pounds a year and is a quarter of a mile over. The river Mistick runs through the right side of the Town, and by its near approach to Charles river in one place makes a very narrow neck, where stands most part of the Town, the market place not far from the water side is surrounded with houses, forth of which issue two streets orderly built and beautified with Orchards and Gardens, their meeting house stands on the north side of the market, having a little hill behind it ; there belongs to this Town one thousand and two hundred acres of arable, four hundrid head of cattle, and as many sheep, these also provide themselves farms in the country.”

One thousand acres of land were laid out, by order of the General Court, “ for the use of the school of Charlestown,” “ in the wilderness, on the western side of Merrimack River, at a place commonly called by the Indians, Sodegonock.”

1661. “ Ordered that Thomas Brigden, senior, deliver the town buckets to any person or inhabitant of this town upon notice of fire within the town : provided the said Brigden takes care for the bringing them to the Meeting House again. And is to be satisfied for his pains and care therein.”

1662. Soon after the restoration, Charles II. addressed a letter to the colonists, in which a right was assumed to interfere with the internal affairs of the colony. This letter was read in the town meetings. This circumstance was recorded as follows :— “ At a general meeting of all the inhabitants of Charlestown the 6th day of October, 1662, the Kings Letter directed to the General Court was openly and deliberately read by Jacob Greene, then one of the constables of the town.” Some feeling was manifested at Woburn on reading this letter. Isaac Cole refused to read it ; and Edward Converse openly declared, that they “ who brought the Kings letter to Woburn, brought popery thither.” Both were summoned to answer for their conduct.

Mr. Long of this town, had his license renewed "for keeping a house of common entertainment and for retailing wine and strong waters, on condition that no strong waters be suffered to be tipled or drunk in or about any house or place of any such his retailing, nor sold to any but masters of families of good report, or travellers in their journey. Penalty, forfeit of license and £5."

Phineas Pratt, of this town, May 1662, presented a "narrative of the streights and hardships that the first planters of this colony underwent in their endeavors to plant themselves in Plymouth and since, whereof he was one." In answer to his petition the Court granted him three hundred acres. Mr. Pratt, in his old age, was assisted by the town and died April 19, 1680. His narrative cannot be found.

The following petition is in the hand writing of Francis Norton. (See page 86.) In answer to it, the Court, May 9, 1662, made the company a grant of one thousand acres of land : —

"To the Hond, Genll. Court now assembled at Boston.

The petition of the Artillery Company for the County of Middlesex.

In most Humble wise sheweth ;

Whereas by the favourable allowance and grant of this Hon'd Court for Sundry years now past, your petitionors have had free liberty to meet together and exercise themselves for their instruction in the military art, wherein, while your petitioners haus sought yr owne profitting, their Lt me End haus been the service of the Lord and his people therein ; for further incouragement of which worke many of us expecting daly when we shall be called off the stage, and others take our places, who were not born. Soldiers no more than wee, and will yrfore stand in like need of Help for their instruction as those yt have b'en their predecessors, or els on neglect ye of, wee need not pésent to yor wisdom the Sad consequences yt will ensue ; Your petitioners do yrfore Humbly beg of this Court to grant to the said Society 1000 acres of land, to be layd out in such places, where it may be improved for the benefit of the sd Society ; the weh althouh to your petitioners it will be both travell and charge, yet being unfeignedly desirous yt so good an exercise should be continued, even when where they can be of no more use and service to God and his people in this world, they shall endeavour the improvement yrof, for the furtherance of the ends proposed and shall continue to pray that He, who is the Lord of Hosts, may be wth you and observe you in all ye weighty concernments for the furtherance of his glory and the peace of his people in these ends of the Earth."

FRAN : N. in the name of the Rest."

1663. In answer to the petition of Captain Francis Norton and Nicholas Davison, in behalf of the inhabitants of this town, "they being straightened by parting with lands to accommodate Cambridge, Woburn and Malden," the General Court granted to the town five hundred acres of land. This was laid out "on the westward side of the bounds of Lancaster."



1666. There is much matter on the records, relative to the dealings of the fathers of the town with the rising generation; and especially relative to their behavior in the meeting house. At a general town meeting, January 1, the town voted to leave the subject with the selectmen. The latter, January 12, passed the following order :

“ By the Selectmen, Whereas there are many complaints of the rude and irreverent carriages of many of our youths especially in the times of the public ordinances of praying and preaching Lords Days which we conceive is heightened for want of due inspection and being and keeping in some certain appointed place or places. And we being called and encouraged by all our householders to take care about them, that profaneness may be prevented, and the government incumbent on governors of families not scandalized. We judge it our duty to commend it as our affectionate desire to all our inhabitants, concerned herein to further us with their cheerful endeavors, and that each person whom we nominate would in his term sit before the youths pew on Lords day during the morning and evening exercise. It being our joint expectation that all youths under fifteen years of age unless on grounded exemption by us, do constantly sit in some one of those three pews made purposely for them. It is our desire that all parents and governors will require their children and servants of the capacity aforesaid to sit and continue orderly in those pews except mr. Cheevers scholars, who are required to sit orderly and constantly in the pews appointed for them together. It is moreover commended to the conscientious care and endeavour of those that do sit before the youths pews Lords days to observe their carriage, and if any youth shall carry it rudely and irreverently to bring them before one of our magistrates with convincing testimony that due course may be taken with them for the discouragement of them and any others of like profane behavior. We doubt not but we shall find our householders active herein that so guilt may not be contracted by personal or general default herein.

Ezekiel Cheever, the renowned schoolmaster of his day, had at this period the charge of the Town School. On the 3rd of November he presented the following “motion” to the selectmen :

“ First, that they would take care the school house be speedily amended because it is much out of repair.

“ Secondly, that they would take care that his yearly salary be paid, the constables being much behind with him.

“ Thirdly, putting them in mind of their promise at his first coming to town, viz. that no other schoolmaster should be suffered, or set up in the town so as he could teach the same, yet now Mr. Mansfield is suffered to teach and take away his scholars.”

At this time Matthew Smith was employed as Town Messenger at thirty shillings a year; and Thomas Brigden, senior, “ to look unto the Meeting House and clear it, to ring the bell to meetings, and to keep out dogs in meeting time, and to receive four pounds yearly for his salary.”

1667. The following agreement gives some idea of the price of carpenter work in the olden time :—

“ This day an agreement made with Solomon Phipps to lay upon the roof of our meeting house, viz. upon one half of the house fifteen or sixteen thousand of good shingles : the said Phipps to find the shingles and lay them only ; and the selectmen are to find boards and nails sufficient for the work ; he is to finish the work by the last day of May next ensuing, and is to receive twenty-two shillings per thousand to be paid out of the next town rates by the constable ; only the selectmen do promise to give him twenty shillings in money over and above the bargain of 22s per thousand.”

1668. The records of this period indicate the jealousy of the fathers of the town respecting strangers,—citizens being often summoned before them for harboring inmates. Quaker preachers were disseminating their views in the towns ; and the Baptists had organized a church here ; and hence this uncommon vigilance. One instance was the case of John Davis. He entertained Thomas Maul, a Quaker, who even began “ to exercise his trade ” of a tailor, without the consent of the selectmen. The latter called Davis to account for his hospitality ; who replied, that “ he would not put him (Maul) out of his house, but would keep him with him, contrary to the mind and prohibition of the selectmen.” A week later, Mr. Davis was again summoned before the selectmen ; when he replied that “ Mr. Maul had left that very morning.” He was fined eighteen shillings “ for his untimely words spoken,” “ but especially for his entertaining ” the tailor “ six days after he was forbidden.” Thomas Maul, the next year, at Salem, was sentenced to be whipped ten stripes for saying “ that Mr. Higginson preached lies, and that his instruction was the doctrine of Devils.” The selectmen continued to look sharp after Davis ; for a few months later he was again summoned before them, and “ warned that he should not frequent ordinaries at any time for the future.”

A petition was sent to the General Court, in the name of the Freemen, which shows the political spirit of the times. This year the Court determined to take the power of nominating military officers into its own hands ; and hence the action of the town. Deacon Stitson and Captain Allen, who appeared in behalf of the freemen, were two of the most respected citizens :—

“ To the much Honoured the General Court assembled at Boston.

The Humble petition of the freemen of Charlestown :

“ Humbly sheweth That your petitioners having through the favour,

and blessing of God, lived under this Government, as tis now established, for many years, enjoying under the shadow thereof wonderful preservation, by the special presence of God with, and the care, and prudence of this honoured Court; together with such priviledges, and immunities, which seem to be essential to the constituting of our freedom, (viz — a free, and inviolable choice of our heads, and rulers over, as well civil and ecclesiastical, as military affairs,) and which hath rendered us the most happy people that we know of in the world.

“Now forasmuch as we are not conscious to our selves of any unfaithfulness to the interests of this Commonwealth, and government, but we hope a studious care to maintain the good of the same, and that in particular in the reference to our choice of military officers, hath from time to time been manifested; The persons chosen having generally approved them selves faithful to their trust. We would not but with grief of heart receive that unwelcome account given us by our deputy, of the voting down soe considerable a part of our so long enjoyed liberty, at the last session of the general Court, viz, the choice of our military \*\*\*\*\* which as it seems to reflect unfaithfulness upon us, so (should it proceed) \*\*\*\* under great discouragements.

“Your petitioners, therefore do humbly \*\*\*\*\* entreat this honourable Court to take the premises into your serious consideration, that we may not loose that in a day, which as we humbly conceive, hath been so many years, enjoyed, as our undoubted right: but that the same being confirmed to us (as that which can have no dangerous consequences; whilst our choice stands or falls, to the courts approbation or rejection) we may with all cheerful industry, not in this case only, but in all cases relating to the universal good of this government, be encourage to approve ourselves most faithful to the interest of the same.”

And your petitioners shall ever pray &c,

WILLIAM STITSON } in the name of the  
JOHN ALLEN } freemen.”<sup>1</sup>

This petition was referred to a committee of three, who reported that the Freemen were “not rightly informed” so “earnestly,” upon “slender ground, to assert that for an undoubted right which no-ways belongs to them, it being always in the Court’s power to allow and confirm military officers.” Heretofore the people had nominated them, and the County Court approved of the nomination; the course now adopted was justified “as more agreeable to the Patent.”

1669. A rate was made to support public worship. The ministers, at first, were paid by the company. This practice, however, continued but a few years, when the duty was put upon the towns. It does not appear from the Records of this town how the money was raised for this purpose; though the meeting house was paid for, and kept in repair, by a general rate. In other towns,<sup>2</sup> it was raised, both by voluntary contributions and taxation. It is

<sup>1</sup> The original, in the Mass. Archives, is imperfect.

<sup>2</sup> Felt’s MSS., Hist. Salem.

probable that such was the practice here, and that those who refused to contribute, were taxed. A citizen of Watertown, in 1643, on being rated for this cause, wrote a book against supporting public worship by taxation; wherein, "besides his arguments, which were naught, he cast reproach upon the elders."<sup>1</sup> He was fined ten pounds; not for his arguments, for "they were not worth the answering;"<sup>2</sup> but for his speeches. No trace has been found of this dangerous book.<sup>3</sup> The individual mentioned in the following vote was, probably, of those who refused to contribute: "1667. 25. 9. John Gould appearing before the selectmen, being demanded whether he would pay any thing to the maintaining of ordinances for the time past, answered plainly that he was not willing to pay any thing for the time past."

The action of the towns on the subject of seating people in the meeting house, took place about this time. The formality of it in this town, and the wording of the votes, indicate something more than mere seating the people in pews. At "a general town meeting" February 26, 1667, it was "agreed by mutual vote," to choose a committee of five to join with the selectmen, "to consult and conclude of the way to bring in what may be sufficient to maintain ordinances comfortably amongst us, and that speedily to be done." Another vote indicates the nature of this business: — "Voted that the townsmen with the committee abovesaid, should have liberty to seat all the inhabitants in pews in the meeting house."

This committee matured their plan; and, April 9, the selectmen appointed James Cary, recorder, and Richard Lowden, constable, to "give notice to each person and to shew them as near as may be verbally where they are appointed to sit, and to inform them how much they are seized to pay." A few months later, January 27, 1669, the selectmen ordered: —

"That Richard Lowden is and shall be impowered to ask and receive of all the inhabitants of this town all such sums as they are rated or proportioned to pay unto the maintenance of the ordinances amongst us: He being deputed by us to collect it, and to pay it to the deacons of the church. For his care and pains to have ten pounds paid by us for this year ensuing."

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<sup>1</sup> Winthrop, vol. ii. p. 93.

<sup>2</sup> Savage in Winthrop, vol. ii. p. 93.

<sup>3</sup> Hubbard, p. 412



## NOTICE.

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THE undersigned, a few years ago, prepared a series of communications upon the history of Charlestown, intending them for the Bunker Hill Aurora; the advice of friends induced him to keep them, and add to them, until they will now appear in the more presumptive form of a volume. This work will be continued, so far as type and paper are concerned, as it has been commenced and as expeditiously as business engagements will permit, until the history is brought down to the present time; but the number of engravings that will be given must depend upon the encouragement it meets with.

One great reason for choosing the mode of publication so much in favor with the public,—viz., in numbers,—is the hope that the early ones may fall into the hands of some persons who may have ancient family manuscripts, and be willing to loan them for the purpose of making this work more complete. Communications of this nature will be gladly received. The undersigned is indebted to several for interesting papers and valuable assistance. Obligations like these will hereafter be specially acknowledged.

RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, JR.

*November, 1845.*

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Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1845,

BY RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, JR.

in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

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